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GHANAIAN MIDFIELDER HAS LOTS TO SMILE ABOUT AFTER SIGNING WHITECAPS EXTENSION AND GETTING HIS PERMANENT RESIDENCY CARD PAGE 27

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21,600 minutes for tripping

Guilty of assaulting kids. Judge says peewee coach essentially made a 'cowardly sucker punch'

A former Vancouver peewee hockey coach has been sentenced to 15 days in jail on weekends and 12 months' probation for tripping a young player during a post-game handshake.

Martin Tremblay pleaded guilty to assault in November and was sentenced in Richmond provincial court Tuesday.

Tremblay, 48, was caught on video sticking his foot out at a 13-year-old player on the opposing team during an on-ice handshake, causing the teen and a 10-year-old teammate to fall to the ice following a gold-medal game in June at the University of B.C.

The teen suffered a wrist injury, and Tremblay was suspended from coaching by the Vancouver Minor Hockey Association following his arrest.

The video, posted on YouTube, was viewed more than two million times before being removed.

The Crown had asked for 30 days of house arrest and 18 months' probation, but Richmond provincial court judge Patrick Chen said this was not enough, since the case involved an assault of an adult against two young children.

In his sentencing, Chen compared what Tremblay did to a "cowardly sucker punch on unsuspecting victims."

Chen also said that Tremblay should have been the role model and not have inflamed the situation by verbally bullying the young player.

The defence argued that Tremblay was overworked and exhausted because of his construction business and volunteer work, which contributed to his behaviour at the time.

Tremblay's lawyer Bob Bellows said they were both surprised by the jail sentence, but won't be appealing the decision.

He said Tremblay has suffered from the notoriety of his case.

"He lost his wife, he lost a number of construction contracts.... He put in years and years coaching hockey … and as a Scoutmaster," Bellows told reporters outside court.

"That's all over because of one incident when he was off his anti-depressants for three weeks. So he's paid a huge price."

Tremblay's first day in jail started Tuesday and the rest of his 15-day sentence will be served intermittently on weekends.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Former minor-hockey coach Martin Tremblay arrives at British Columbia provincial court in Richmond on Tuesday. Tremblay was sentenced to 15 days in jail and 12 months' probation after he was caught on video tripping a player on an opposing team as the teams shook hands after a game. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Get there fast & take it slow

Ernest Hemingway spent a lot of his time in the Florida Keys and so should you PAGE 17

Tourists die in hot-air balloon

At least 19 people floating above Egypt were killed when their balloon caught fire PAGE 10

Stop not making sense

Cycling coalition HUB wants bikers to be able to treat stop signs as yield signs PAGE 3

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Appeal. Lawyer to be appointed for outhouse thief

A thief who can't afford to appeal his conviction involving a stolen outhouse will have a lawyer appointed for him, an Appeal Court judge decided Tuesday.

Robert Andel was convicted in provincial court on two counts of possessing stolen property over $5,000 and received a 13-month jail sentence, which he has already served.

Now he wants to appeal his conviction, arguing police used a warrantless search of the property where the stolen outhouse was located.

The cedar outhouse, hand made and reportedly worth $1,900, was stolen from a display home outside a Lumby sawmill in 2010. A white truck was seen in the vicinity around the time of the theft.

Weeks later, police were given photos of the outhouse, which had been relocated to a large orchard in the area. The officers recognized the location and went to the rural property to investigate.

Court heard that, shortly after police arrived, Andel was seen driving a white GMC Sierra pickup truck pulling a flat-deck trailer. When Andel saw the officers, he fled from the vehicle on foot. He was eventually caught, and the truck and the trailer were found to be stolen.

Police later found the stolen outhouse on the property, as well as other stolen items in Andel's residence.

Andel was charged with 20 counts, but the Crown decided at trial to proceed only on the charges involving the stolen truck and trailer.

At trial, Andel, now 55, argued all the evidence should be excluded because of the breaches of his charter rights. The trial judge disagreed.

NEAL HALL/THE CANADIAN PRESS EXCLUSIVELY FOR METRO

Vancouver cycling coalition HUB wants to see cyclists treated differently than motorists. FLICKR.COM: PAUL KRUEGER

Should cyclists roll through stop signs?

Stop as yield?

Advocates point to Idaho's laws to argue for lenient bike laws

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Bicycles rolling through stop signs is a common enough sight in Vancouver, but a local coalition wants to see it legalized, with the province giving cyclists the right to treat stop signs as yield signs, and red lights as stop signs.

HUB executive director Erin O'Melinn told Metro via email her group always encourages cyclists to ride safely and obey the rules of the road, but for the last 30 years, Idaho has had a "stop as yield" law with no increase in injury levels.

Advocates in California, Montana, Minneapolis, and Oregon have tried without success to get similar legislation passed.

"Bicycles and motor vehicles use the road differently and have different safety concerns, and HUB is supportive of progressive legislation that acknowledges this and creates the safest possible environment for all road users," O'Melinn wrote.

She argued Idaho's laws encourage more people to cycle, allow cyclists to ride more efficiently, and let police focus on safety issues at busier intersections.

Portland cycling lawyer and advocate Ray Thomas, who twice led failed campaigns to get "stop as yield" legislation passed in Oregon, thinks the idea has trouble getting traction because many people look at it from the drivers' perspective.

Man-made energy

"It's such a waste of energy."

Ray Thomas, cycling advocate, on bicyclists needing to stop at stop signs

"It's kind of a general irritation among motorists that bicyclists sometimes behave as if they don't think they're subject to the same rules as everybody else," he said, "so they don't like to see that a situation could be created where a bicyclist could come up to a stop sign or a red light and yield and continue through, even if it's safe to do so.

"They feel like the bicyclist should have to wait at the stop sign just like they have to, and it's a shame because it's such a waste of energy."

The proposal would require changes to B.C.'s Motor Vehicle Act, but the Ministry of Transportation could not immediately respond to a request for comment.

NDP public-safety critic Kathy Corrigan said she's open to discussing the idea with advocates but that it would have to be looked at very carefully from a public-safety point of view.

Sgt. Randy Fincham of the Vancouver Police Department said he didn't know much about Idaho's law but that it raises some concerns.

"You have two bicycles approaching a four-way stop at the same time — who stops?" he asked. "Somebody has to stop."

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Suburban mayors irked by proposed changes to bus service

Rerouting. Proposed changes to 34 routes is not sitting well with some mayors

Metro Vancouver mayors are upset about proposed changes to suburban bus service they say will make public transportation less attractive in their communities.

The 2013 Bus Service Optimization Public Consultation Summary, released Monday, proposed changes to 34 routes to re-allocate resources from lesser-used routes to routes where demand is higher.

The recommendations in the report will inform the next 12 months of TransLink planning.

TransLink spokesperson Derek Zabel said the changes won't reduce the number of overall transit service hours in the region, and any reductions in service are matched by reinvestments of service in the same area.

Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore, who is also chair of Metro Vancouver, called the proposed changes "challenging." He said they will hurt Metro Vancouver's goal to reduce car dependence.

"We need to look at the community impact of these decisions, and the policies we've all adopted and are trying to strive for," he said.

Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts also said the changes would adversely affect her community.

"We are the second-largest city in the province.... Cutting bus service is just not an option," she said. "It doesn't speak to the goal of getting people out of their cars to take public transit. It's just exacerbating the problem."

She said she understands TransLink has funding problems, but wants the province to legislate new options for permanent funding solutions and not cut services or raise fares.

On Tuesday Watts attended a rally at Central City Plaza that advocated for better bus service in Surrey.

"This route optimization is, in my mind, code for service cuts for Surrey," said Steve Burke, spokesperson for the Surrey Citizens Transportation Initiative, which organized the rally.

"Because we have the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), you're going to have light ridership in some areas, but does that mean they don't (get) any public transit?" he said.

The ALR legislation prevents farmland from being developed.

LIAM BRITTEN/FOR METRO

On the web

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Krystal Noonan, left, and Heidi Wolff attend a rally for better transit at the Central City Plaza in Surrey on Tuesday.
ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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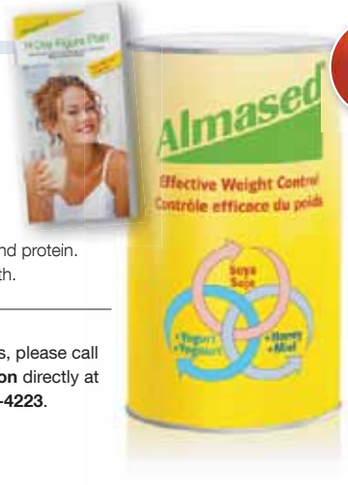

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Man sues city after alleged police beating

Metallica rock concert. Coquitlam man seeking damages for slander and loss of reputation, as well as punitive damages for his injuries

NEAL HALL
The Canadian Press exclusively for Metro

A Coquitlam man is suing the City of Vancouver, claiming he was beaten until knocked out by city police at a Metallica concert last year.

Francisco Rios claims he was punched and kicked by VPD officers until he was unconscious.

The construction contractor claims up to 10 officers were involved in the incident outside Rogers Arena on Aug. 25 last year.

Rios, who was attending the concert, says he was attacked by police without cause or warning.

His legal action, filed in B.C. Supreme Court in Vancouver, claims he was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Police told paramedics and hospital staff that Rios had been resisting arrest, the lawsuit claims.

Rios denies he was resisting arrest and is seeking damages for slander and loss of reputation.

He is also seeking general and punitive damages for his injuries, which he claims included bruising and cuts on his face, neck and shoulder pain and a concussion.

No response from city yet

The allegations have not been proven in court and the City of Vancouver has not yet filed a defence in response.

James Hetfield and Kirk Hammett of Metallica perform last summer at Bader Field in Atlantic City, N.J. THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES

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Council approves West End apartment towers

Rendering of the future towers at 1600 Beach Ave. and 1651 Harwood St. in the West End. CONTRIBUTED

New rental units trumped NIMBY-ism in Vancouver's West End.

City council approved two beachfront towers with 133 rental units on Tuesday after two years of review and a public hearing where most opposed the project.

"There is a desperate need for rental housing," Coun. Tim Stevenson said, noting that many councillors were elected on a promise to build affordable housing.

Dedicated rental units, which will be built in a nine-storey tower and low-rise buildings at 1600 Beach Ave. and 1651 Harwood St., are less expensive than buying condos or renting from an owner, according to the city's affordable-housing strategy.

Rent

$1,195

Some protested that the apartments, at about $1,195 for a studio, will still be too rich for the average single to afford. (The city pegs affordable rent for one at $975.)

And this is only the second rental project in a decade to get permission to build in the West End, where rental vacancy rates of 0.85 per cent are among the lowest in the city.

Others wanted one-third of the units to be locked at affordable rates, but staff said that's impossible as the project is being built without government subsides.

Councillors also heard concerns from neighbours who will lose their views (and property value) or be subject to shadows from the development, but the majority found the benefits of rental housing to outweigh the cons.

Council did lock in the prices in the application, so the developer doesn't offer the units at a markup when they go to market in a few years.

Though the project was exempt from community amenity contributions under the STIR program, it will contribute $243,000.

The cash will be allocated after the completion of the West End community plan later this year.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Pre-treaty. B.C. and five Vancouver Island First Nations sign land deals

A parking lot near the British Columbia legislature in Victoria and the current site of a government liquor store in nearby Esquimalt are two of several Vancouver Island properties slated to be transferred to five First Nations in advance of treaty settlements.

The land agreements are all on southern Vancouver Island, as are the five First Nations involved.

Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Ida Chong said during a signing ceremony on Tuesday at the legislature that the pre-treaty deals are part of the government's ongoing work that offers partial settlements during the treaty negotiation process.

Prior to the five Vancouver Island agreements, the government reached five other incremental deals with First Nations across B.C.

The five Vancouver Island First Nations are negotiating a land-claims treaty with the B.C. and federal governments as members of the Te'mexw Treaty Association.

"The agreements we are celebrating today with the nations of the Te'mexw Treaty Association will bring tangible benefits to your members within the treaty process," said Chong. "They will bring new opportunities that will benefit not only the five Te'mexw Treaty Association members, but neighbouring communities across Vancouver Island."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Organized crime. Hearing reveals how Asian gang crime works in Canada

An immigration hearing for an alleged organized-crime boss is pulling back the curtain on the murky world of Asian triads and the ties that bind them to Canada.

Seventeen years after Lai Tong Sang stepped off a plane in Vancouver, Canada Border Services Agency is asking the Immigration and Refugee Board to find him inadmissible on the grounds that he has ties to organized crime.

An investigation into stolen vehicles being shipped overseas for sale first alerted British Columbia law enforcement officials that a major player in the Macau underworld had landed on their shores, Patrick Fogarty, the former superintendent of the Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit, told the board Tuesday.

"During the initial phases of Project Bamboo, evidence was brought to my attention of a group that we were investigating taking a contract from Hong Kong to locate and kill (Lai)," testified Fogarty, a veteran police officer and expert in Asian organized crime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged crime boss Tong Sang Lai's wife Sap Mui Vong, right, and eldest daughter Kei Lai enter an Immigration and Refugee Board admissibility hearing on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Labour peace'

Nurses' deal in early stages: Clark

B.C. Premier Christy Clark says the government is in the early stages of talks about a 10-year contract with the nurses' union.

She says such a deal would bring labour peace to hospitals and that similar discussions have taken place with teachers to create stability for students.

Last week, presidents of B.C.'s six health authorities sent a letter to the Health Employers Association of B.C., saying they hadn't been informed of such discussions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sunshine Coast

Three suspected of poaching elk

Poaching charges are being considered after three female Roosevelt elk were shot on the Sunshine Coast, northwest of Vancouver.

Conservation officers say three local residents, two from Pender Harbour, B.C., and one from Powell River, were stopped late on Feb. 20.

Three elk carcasses were recovered, and investigators believe the animals were shot near Highway 101, about 60 kilometres north of the Langdale ferry terminal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A TransLink bus after someone lit a firework on its wheel on Halloween 2007. CONTRIBUTED

City to ban fireworks on private property

Not in your backyard. Park board will designate areas where the fire department will issue permits on five fire-friendly holidays

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Vancouverites will lose their privilege to light fireworks on private property after too many years of bad behaviour on Halloween night.

The city approved the fire department's recommendations to only allow fireworks at permitted events on public property at council on Tuesday, pending discussion with the park board and an eventual bylaw change.

But don't accuse council of advancing a "no-fun city" agenda.

Under the new rules, people will also be allowed to celebrate with a bang on New Year's Eve, Chinese New Year, Diwali and Vaisakhi instead of just Halloween.

"Certainly, we're making it more fun," Coun. Raymond Louie said. "Rather than just having one day, now we have five."

The city will not restrict who can sell fireworks, just where people can light them. The park board will designate certain public areas, such as parks or community centres, where the fire department will issue permits for people to use consumer fireworks.

It's an attempt to put a damper on damages caused by consumer fireworks on Halloween, the only sanctioned night to light up the city's skies, Fire Chief John McKearney said at council.

In 2007, fireworks caused $1.3 million worth of damage, including a TransLink bus that was blown up with an illegal Roman candle, McKearney said. Fire crews respond to an average of 35 fires, and police handle an average of 309 fireworks-related calls each Halloween night.

The new rules aim to balance the city's desire to celebrate different cultural occasions and to keep youth out of emergency rooms — there's a spike every Halloween, according to Vancouver Coastal Health.

The city manager said controlling fireworks could save taxpayers money by reducing enforcement needs.

Consumer fireworks are banned in a dozen Lower Mainland municipalities and allowed in five. The proposed model for Vancouver is unique.

The bright side

"Certainly, we're making it more fun.... Rather than just having one day, now we have five."

Coun. Raymond Louie on the approval of a new bylaw that will only allow fireworks at permitted events on public property due to increasing safety concerns.

Weather clear on night of ferry sinking: Witnesses

Karl Lilgert THE CANADIAN PRESS

The weather along British Columbia's Inside Passage was relatively calm the night the Queen of the North passenger ferry struck an island and sank, two passengers told a crew member's criminal-negligence trial Tuesday.

Fourth officer Karl Lilgert's defence lawyers have suggested poor visibility caused by bad weather was among a list of factors that contributed to the sinking in March 2006. Two passengers were never seen again, and Lilgert is charged with criminal negligence causing their deaths.

But several crew members and passengers have recalled encountering gentle winds, light rain and even clear skies when they stepped onto the ship's outer decks shortly after the ship collided with an island.

Drew Pawley, who was on the first life raft to be lowered into the water, was asked to describe the weather as he sat in the life raft.

"The wind was less than five knots, visibility was good, there was occasional light or moderate showers, the sea state was good. It was generally quite pleasant," Pawley told a B.C. Supreme Court jury on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Paddleboard station coming soon to Kitsilano's sands

A new wave. City strikes a three-year deal with operator to have rental stand at its second-busiest beach

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Bronzed sunbathers at Kitsilano Beach will soon be able to take a break from the land and rent paddleboards at a city-sanctioned stand.

Vancouver's park board approved a three-year agreement with Vancouver Water Adventures to operate a paddleboard rental station at the city's second-busiest beach at the board meeting Monday.

English Bay and Jericho beaches already have stands for paddleboards, large surf boards that people stand on and propel with a paddle, but the city decided it wanted a third in light of the activity's growing popularity.

Vancouver Water Adventures, a five-year-old company that operates at Granville Island, beat five other bids to run the stand that it will set up and take down daily as early as May 1.

The paddleboard rental business has grown "exponentially," owner Clayton Watson, 30, said of the business he runs with his sister Jessica Watson.

Last year they had to add almost 20 boards to their original fleet of 10 to keep up with demand, he said.

"We literally had lineups before we opened the door," Watson said, adding that they sold out almost daily.

"It's a good exercise, you get to get out on the water, it's better than just going to the beach," he said. "Ladies like it cause they can go, get a tan, get a workout."

The company will pay the city a minimum of $5,250 to operate on the beach, or seven per cent of its revenue up to $100,000 and 8.5 per cent of revenue more than $100,000. It will be fully insured and hopes to have a fleet of 50 boards.

Board rentals cost $20 for the first hour and $10 per hour after that. People will be able to rent a board at Kits beach and drop it off at Granville Island.

Lifejackets are mandatory when using a paddleboard — regardless of whether the user wants a tan.

No ifs, ands or 'but-I'm-pale!'s

Lifejackets are mandatory when using a paddleboard — regardless of whether the user wants a tan.

A paddleboard rental station is coming to Kits Beach this summer. CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

Former realtor was key in kidnapping: Crown

A North Vancouver Realtor played a central role in a gangland-style kidnapping in 2011 that began at a sports bar in Vancouver's West End, the Crown said Tuesday during an opening address at a B.C. Supreme Court trial.

The Crown is expected to call evidence to prove that Sulaiman Safi was kidnapped at the Denman Tap House and was taken to Richmond where he was tied up and threatened at gunpoint if he didn't hand over $440,000, prosecutor Sandra Dworkin told B.C. Supreme Court Justice Catherine Bruce.

She added court will hear Safi went to the Denman Tap House on Oct. 20, 2011, to meet real estate agent Nazfar Mirhadi, 28, who had earlier asked Safi if he could transfer $400,000 to the U.S.

Safi said he could do it if Mirhadi gave him $440,000, which was arranged, Dworkin told the trial.

But something went wrong with the transfer, and the money didn't get to where it was supposed to go, Dworkin said.

"Mirhadi demanded the return of the money," the prosecutor said at the start of the 10-week judge-alone trial.

Safi then tried to return $264,000 of the money to Mirhadi, but police stopped the vehicle and seized the cash, the Crown said.

Vernoica Moncur, 21, co-accused. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Mirhadi didn't believe Safi, who tried to obtain proof that he was telling the truth," Dworkin told the court. "Mirhadi demanded a meeting to discuss the missing funds."

But when Safi showed up to meet Mirhadi at the Denman Street sports bar, two other men, Demple Brar, 43, of Richmond, and Robert Carr, 29, of Abbotsford, approached the table and Brar took control of the meeting, asking Safi to come to his office to discuss the missing money.

"The office turned out to be the back lane," the prosecutor told the court, adding Safi was held until he was forced into a car and a balaclava was put over his head.

The Crown said Safi was threatened with being zapped with a stun gun and was taken to Richmond, where he was held overnight and further threatened.

Safi eventually agreed to provide the cash and cocaine to cover the demands of his captors, Dworkin said.

Meanwhile, police had been alerted to the kidnapping and had surveillance on the Richmond location, where Safi was observed being put in the car.

Safi eventually escaped from the vehicle and ran, with police arresting five of seven accused now on trial for kidnapping, unlawful confinement and weapons charges. Police seized a number of guns and cellphones.

Two of the accused are women — Mirhadi and Veronica Moncur, 21, of Kamloops.

Justice Bruce ruled Tuesday that the key witness in the kidnapping case, Safi, can testify via video from California, where he was sentenced earlier this month to an 81-month prison term for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crystal methamphetamine.

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YVR

Border guards find suspected heroin

It looked like coffee whitener but when border guards at Vancouver International Airport opened nine canisters from a Vietnamese air cargo package something smelled off.

According to the declaration form, the parcel processed on Feb. 1 contained T-shirts, hats and the brand-name tubs, but tests confirmed the containers concealed more than four kilograms of suspected heroin. KATE WEBB/METRO

Border guards seized more than four kilograms of suspected heroin at YVR Feb. 1. HANDOUT/CBSA

SkyTrain

Man who robbed disabled woman gets a year in jail

A 33-year-old New Westminster man has been sentenced to a year in jail and two years probation for stealing an iPad from a young wheelchair-bound woman at a SkyTrain station last May.

Police said the robbery happened on May 10, 2012, as Cassie Campbell, who is deaf and has cerebral palsy, tried to get on an elevator at Metrotown SkyTrain Station.

Police tracked down John Eugene Lagimodiere, 32, who has since been sentenced to one day in custody and two years' probation. The second suspect, David Clayton Ned, has been sentenced to one year in jail, including time served, and two years probation.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Community service

Fred Mah becomes 74th person to receive Civic Merit Award

Vancouverite Fred Mah, an advocate for heritage, Chinatown and the environment was awarded the Civic Merit Award on Tuesday.

Only 74 people have been given the award since its inception in 1942, Mayor Gregor Robertson said at the presentation, where he lauded Mah for his years of community service.

Mah, who started as a volunteer teaching English to new immigrant garment workers, helped found the dragon boat race festival, built a sister-city friendship with Guangzhou, promoted a cleanup of False Creek and helped preserve the heritage buildings in Chinatown. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Tourists bathed in fire in most lethal balloon accident on record

A policeman stands guard at the site of the accident in Luxor, Egypt. NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt. At least 19 dead, with two others suffering severe burns

A hot-air balloon carrying tourists over Egypt's ancient city of Luxor caught fire Tuesday, and some passengers trying to escape the flames leaped to their deaths before the craft crashed in a sugar-cane field. At least 19 tourists were killed in what is believed to be the world's deadliest ballooning accident.

The accident was a new blow to Egypt's tourism industry, which has been gutted by the country's turmoil the past two years.

The crash raised accusations that authorities have let safety standards fall amid the political instability, though the civil aviation chief insisted his ministry keeps stringent inspections.

The balloon was carrying 20 tourists — from France, Britain, Belgium, Hungary, Japan and Hong Kong — and an Egyptian pilot on a flight over Luxor, officials said.

According to initial indications, the balloon was landing when a cable got caught around a helium tube and a fire erupted, according to an investigator with the state prosecutor's office.

The balloon then ascended rapidly, the investigator said. The fire detonated a gas canister and the balloon plunged about 300 metres to the ground, crashing in a field outside al-Dhabaa village, a security official said.

"I saw tourists catching fire, and they were jumping from the balloon. They were trying to flee the fire, but it was on their bodies," said Hassan Abdel-Rasoul, a farmer in al-Dhabaa. He said one of those he saw on fire was a visibly pregnant woman.

Bodies of the dead tourists were scattered across the field.

The crash immediately killed 18, according to Luxor's governor, Ezzat Saad. Two Britons and the Egyptian pilot were taken to the hospital, but one of the Britons died of his injuries soon after. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Culpable homicide'

Pistorius' account may damn him on lesser charge

Even if Oscar Pistorius is acquitted of murder, firearms and legal experts in South Africa believe that, by his own account, the star athlete violated gun-handling regulations and exposed himself to a homicide charge by shooting into a closed door without knowing who was behind it.

Pistorius testified that he shot at the door, fearing but not knowing for certain that an intruder was on the other side. Instead, it was Pistorius' girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

"There is no situation in South Africa that allows a person to shoot at a threat that is not identified," said Andre Pretorius, president of the Professional Firearm Trainers Council, a regulatory body for firearms instructors.

Experts said that even if the prosecution fails to prove premeditated murder, firing through a closed door could bring a conviction for the charge of culpable homicide, equivalent to manslaughter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Swiss Red Cross cutting back on blood to Greece

Greek financial woes. Organization to halve shipments, reducing financial exposure to slow-paying country

The Swiss Red Cross is slashing its supply of donor blood to Greece because the financially stricken country has failed to pay its bills on time, the head of the group's transfusion service said Tuesday.

Rudolf Schwabe confirmed Swiss media reports that Greece had run up debts of several million Swiss francs in the past. While those debts have since been repaid, the non-profit SRC has decided to halve its blood shipments to Greece in the coming years in order to limit its financial risk, he said.

Thalassemia patients are among those who regularly need blood in Greece. GETTY IMAGES

Greece's international creditors have demanded the government cut spending on pharmaceutical products as part of bailout agreements.

The Swiss blood sent to Greece comes from unused emergency stockpiles and is designated for humanitarian use. In the past, the SRC charged Greece five million Swiss francs ($5.4 million US) to cover its costs for supplying 28,000 blood packets a year.

The Swiss blood shipped to Greece helps meet demand from the country's thalassemia sufferers. An estimated 3,000 people in Greece with a severe form of this genetic disorder — also known as Mediterranean anemia — need regular transfusions amounting to some 130,000 packets a year.

"That's why we had long talks with the Greek Health Ministry," Schwabe said.

The Swiss will reduce their shipments to Greece to 14,000 packets a year by 2020. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec students on the march, yet again

A protester known as Anarchapanda walks past police during a demonstration by students in Montreal, Tuesday. The PQ government cancelled the Liberals' proposed tuition hikes and on Monday announced scaled-down increases of its own at an education summit. The PQ will raise tuition by one-fifth of the Liberal plan — $70 per year. Meanwhile, more student protests were planned starting with the march on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mobile games

Apple settlement to award $100M in iTunes credits

Apple has agreed to give more than $100 million in iTunes-store credits to settle a lawsuit alleging that it improperly charged kids for playing games on their mobile devices. The two-year-old case centres on allegations that Apple didn't create adequate parental controls to prevent children from buying extra features while playing free games on iPhones and iPads in 2010 and 2011. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
97.43¢ (+0.12¢)

TSX
12,660.44 (+9.57)

OIL
$92.63 US (-48¢)

GOLD
$1,615.50 US (+$28.90)

Natural gas: $3.45 US (+4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,900.13 (+115.96)

Never mind horsemeat — in South Africa, mystery beef includes donkey

Misrepresented meat. New study found 68 per cent of samples contained species not declared on label

Horrified that these cute little fellas might end up in so-called beef products? They're probably not happy about it either. Food scientists in South Africa have found undeclared donkey, water buffalo and goat in processed meat products, thus confirming that the EU is not alone in the battle against mislabelling.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Worried about horsemeat in your beef? Try water buffalo, donkey and goat. South African food scientists said they have found all three in mislabelled foods including beef burgers, ground beef and sausages.

A study published by three professors at Stellenbosch University found that 68 per cent of 139 samples contained species not declared on the product label, with the highest incidence in sausages, burger patties and deli meats.

The study found soya and gluten were not labelled in 28 per cent of products tested, and undeclared pork in 37 per cent and chicken in 23 per cent.

"This study confirms that the mislabelling of processed meats is commonplace in South Africa and not only violates food-labelling regulations but also poses economic, religious, ethical and health impacts," said co-author Prof. Louwrens C. Hoffman.

He said tests the past two weeks on hundreds of samples of imported meat have found no horsemeat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"There's nothing wrong with eating donkey if you like donkey, but if you don't, you have the right to know."

Prof. Louwrens C. Hoffman

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LISTEN UP, LANGUAGE POLICE

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Le gouvernement du Québec is in trouble because its overzealous language police tried to ban the word "pasta" from the menu of an Italian restaurant.

"Pâtes" doesn't quite have the same ring but it's all part of a legitimate effort to preserve the French language in the face of creeping … Italian.

Of course, the story went viral and now le gouvernement is calling off les chiens.

Trying to write in both official languages is exhausting. So I'm stopping. Maintenant, er, now.

The point is that taking care of the language is a thankless task. We should worry less about giving our francophone cousins a tough time about their vigilance and concentrate on our own English language transgressions, which are légion.

In fact, Quebec has given me a good idea. I'm going to assemble my own language police and send violation notices by Twitter, which should make me even more popular than usual.

New linguistic tack

The ultimate tip-off that you're dealing with a suspected language violator is "tact," which actually means "diplomacy," but is most often used as a word meaning "tactic" or "approach."

The hardest thing is where to start. If we ban the use of the word "like" except in its proper context, that is: "I like ice cream," an entire generation will be struck dumb. Same with other ubiquitous language shrapnel such as "O my God" and "awesome," which is not.

As bad as those are, they're nothing compared to the battery of baloney designed to make the user appear smarter or more well-read. Regardez: "Irregardless," which is a faux gilding of the lily known as "regardless."

The ultimate tip-off that you're dealing with a suspected language violator is "tact," which actually means "diplomacy," but is most often used as a word meaning "tactic" or "approach." Tact is short for tactic, no? The shortest distance between two ideas?

No.

The actual term is "tack," which is a nautical term for an effective way to make forward progress into a headwind. Once you've learned to tack, you'll never go back. But we need to deal sternly with all those clever tacticians if we're to make any headway.

The biggest challenge for my new Grammar Gendarmes, I predict, will be jargon, which is a mélange (stop that!) of acronyms and catchy phrases that make the offender sound as if he's speaking Esperanto from a script by Steve Jobs.

For example: "POTUS will do his due diligence and nominate from within his own wheelhouse for the next SCOTUS vacancy." Even l'office québécois de la langue française would have trouble figuring out if that's English, Italian or Klingon. That's punditry gone wild, and should read: "After careful consideration, the U.S. president will nominate a political ally to fill the next vacancy on the Supreme Court."

America is suffering from a language recession and may be a lost cause. But ici Canada, we still maintiens le droit. Vive la difference!

Memo: When referring to any type of cooked noodle in Quebec, choose pâtes over pasta. TIMOTHY HIATT/GETTY IMAGES

A giant leap of fate

ULET IFANSASTI/GETTY IMAGES

Ancient tradition

Boys become men in stone jumping

You'd call it a leap of faith, but for youngsters in rural Indonesia, it's more a leap of their fate.

In Orahili Fau village, Nias Island, some 1,200 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, young men take part in stone jumping, "fahombo batu," a manhood ritual of leaping over stone towers — a feat which in the past has resulted in serious injury and death. METRO

Stone tradition

Nias Island is rare megalithic culture

The island of Nias, dominated by mountainous terrain and ravines, has been described as having one of the world's last megalithic cultures.

Until the 1950s, locals would erect monoliths, "owasa," used for ceremonies. Experts have never found stone-jumping sites elsewhere in Indonesia, pointing to the island's uniqueness in the megalithic tradition. METRO

Size of the stone

2.5

metres is the height of this column. The intrepid youth, dressed in traditional warrior garb, run up and hop on a small, round stone to gain momentum and height before soaring feet first over the block. In the past, the block was topped with sharpened bamboo stakes. The centuries-old practice of stone jumping first began when intertribal wars were rife. Every valiant fighter would be able to leap over the high stone walls of a rival village, fringed with bamboo stakes across the top.

Past traditions gone

Count number of jumps, not heads

In traditional Nias society, "mangani binu" (decapitation of enemies) was a principal ritual for young men.

Nowadays, instead of the number of skulls a person acquired determining one's social status, it is based on how many stones could be jumped over. But the use of traditional weapons in local ceremonies is a reminder of this ritual. METRO

Metropolitan Panel

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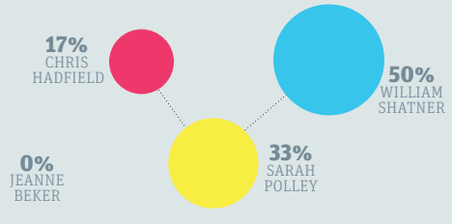
Which of these prominent Canadians should cross over into politics?



Twitter

@seanleslie980: Victoria is probably putting food carts on back burner because they've been so unsuccessful in #yvr. #yyjmadness

@BillTieleman: Lives are at stake on the west coast. Sign here to Save our Kits Coast Guard Station -> http://p.ndp.ca/kits #ndp #bcpoli #cdnpoli

@geoffmeggs: Fred Mah speaks to council after receiving civic merit award for his service to Vancouver #vanpoli pic.twitter.com/TgQHJksWpc

@charliedemers: Right now, at the Louvre, a Family Guy fan is standing in front of Delacroix's 'Liberty Leading the People' & singing "We Saw Your Boobs."

@BrentToderian: Thrilled that after years of consideration & design, Vancouver's Comox-Helmcken Greenway being built.

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2 SCENE

21 and Over

Birthdays are universal

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Paris Hilton once said, "The way I see it, you should live everyday like it's your birthday." Of course she would think that way. She's young. And rich.

Like death and taxes, birthdays are one of the events that touch everyone's lives. Not everyone loves to celebrate getting older — "There is still no cure for the common birthday," said John Glenn — but Hollywood seems to enjoy throwing birthday parties — on screen at least. This weekend in 21 & Over a med school student makes merry on his birthday with two of his besties. But like so many movie birthday parties it goes horribly wrong — or horribly right if you have a taste for humiliation, extreme drunkenness and debauchery.

Horror movies have frequently used birthday parties as a backdrop for terror. The alien invasion movie Signs made Bravo's 100 Scariest Movie Moments list for a scene showing news footage of an alien at a child's birthday party in Brazil.

The film Logan's Run is set in an idyllic future. There's just one huge drawback — on your 21st birthday you will be vaporized into a sticky goo during a ritual called the Carousel.

Not all movie birthdays are bummers, however.

Despite hiring a drunken clown to perform at his nephew Miles's (Macaulay Culkin) birthday, Uncle Buck, played by the late, great John Candy, does the best he can to throw a great birthday party. The best part? He makes giant pancakes — they're so extreme they now have their own Facebook page with 290 likes — boasting, "You should see the toast. I couldn't even get it through the door!"

Miles Teller, left, Justin Chon and Skylar Astin star in Relativity Media's 21 & Over. HANDOUT

Miles Teller draws the line at French kissing

21 & Over. Star had difficult time agreeing to some scenes in new movie

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Miles Teller insists he's generally game for anything once he's signed on to a film, but as he learned on 21 & Over — the directorial debut of The Hangover writers Jon Lucas and Scott Moore — there were some lengths to which Teller wasn't quite willing to go for the sake of comedy.

Diving right into the nudity issue, there are a few very bold scenes for you in this. How do you psyche yourself up for that?
Or not. I mean, I know when you read the script or agree to do a movie, you know you're going to agree to do everything. The nudity stuff, I just made sure I worked out, you know what I mean? Because some movies you don't have time. You can work out before a movie, but then when you're shooting there's really no time. I know some actors do it, and people should really give them credit because they're working 14 hours a day, it's exhausting, and then working out and getting like five hours of sleep. It's pretty tough. So for this I just made sure I worked out, and the (guy-on-guy) kissing scene was something I tried to get rid of for a while. I was literally like pretty upset about that. And then we did it and it was just like CPR.

You were upset about it?
Kiss a guy? Yes. Inevitably, I did it for comedy. But they wanted me to use the tongue and I said, "Nope. It's not that funny, man."

These guys are known for going pretty far for a joke. Was there anything else where you had to draw the line?
No. I mean, there was a point where me and Skylar were shackled up and were getting spanked. At one point the shackle broke, so I had to bend over and fix it and s—, and there was all these girls around, and I was just like, "I'm sorry about some a—hole." Then I just went down and fixed it. Other than that, I felt pretty safe. The humour that these guys write, they're both extremely intelligent. And it's funny, it's well-written, it's not, like, dumb comedy. I never felt like I was doing cheesy or manipulative stuff. I felt pretty comfortable with everything.

What's your own most dramatic drinking anecdote?
I just remember the only time I had alcohol poisoning, when I was literally puking black, and I was just like, "This is bad." Nothing black should ever come out of your body, you know what I mean? Especially out of your mouth. There's some crazier s— I'm sure, but if you remember it then it probably wasn't that good.

How did your own college experience compare to this?
Not at all. I mean, NYU is just, like, New York. I mean, New York is your college campus, and when I was in college I smoked a lot of weed and played a lot of FIFA. That was pretty much what I did. But I grew up in Florida. Florida State's a pretty stereotypical party college. Anywhere in the South, anywhere in the sun with a college with a good sports team is going to be fun.

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2. Upload your photos by visiting www.clubmetro.com/Justin
3. Remember to share the love! Collect votes from your friends to increase your chances of landing the grand prize!

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

MacFarlane keeps on entertaining

Apparently Seth MacFarlane didn't get his need to perform out of his system at the Oscars Sunday night, as the host also took the stage for a few numbers at his private after-party in front of family and friends, according to E! News.

He also celebrated the night by getting cosy with Charlize Theron. "Charlize was very chatty with Seth and they shared a laugh in between his performances," a source says. "The party wasn't packed, but everyone seemed to be enjoying the singing and dancing."

Theron reportedly stayed at the shindig for quite a while. METRO WORLD NEWS

His memorable opening song

Maybe you found Oscar host Seth MacFarlane hilarious or offensive or neither or both. Either way, you surely remember his opening number, We Saw Your Boobs. In the song, he called out Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and other notable actresses for showing their stuff (including Jodie Foster in the rape movie The Accused — ha-ha Seth?).

Celebrity porn website Mr. Skin has now collected clips from every film mentioned. Good marketing! Timely! Gross? METRO

Once is more than enough

It looks like it's one and done at the Oscars for Seth MacFarlane. The Family Guy creator was asked on his Twitter account whether he'd consider hosting the Academy Awards again and he replied: "No way. Lotta fun to have done it, though."

MacFarlane's edgy comedy proved a polarizing force on Sunday's Academy Awards, with jokes about domestic violence, women's bodies and Jews in Hollywood that offended some viewers. The Oscars did get their biggest audience in three years, however, with particular growth among young viewers.

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ELITE 3

With azure waters and a long list of big game fishing world records and tropical reef fish to see, it's no wonder author and sportsman Ernest Hemingway spent a decade of winters in the Florida Keys. The Overseas Highway, or U.S. Route 1, strings together more than 50 small islands with a swashbuckling past that rise above an ancient coral reef. Here, whether it's by sailboat or jet ski, riding on the water is the only to get around.

BY GRAHAM LANKTREE
Metro Canada

5 reasons to visit the Florida Keys

FLICKR: VASENKA

Key West

The quirky character of Key West, with its sun-drenched colours and retro '80s motel signs, finds roosters roaming public parks alongside cats and buskers. Here, Hemingway's house is now filled with a brood of 43 felines descended from six-toed Snowball, who belonged to the adventurous author. The house stands across from a 164-year-old lighthouse warning ships and their treasure about the treacherous reef shores. Ride out on the water around the island and round the tip of the southernmost point of the U.S. Spot colourful reef fish while snorkelling and you will see just how important the life aquatic is to the keys.

Dry Tortugas (Lower Keys)

Big Pine Key and the lower keys of Dry Tortugas National Park are unspoiled in their beauty. Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León discovered these islands 500 years ago in 1513. The hundreds of sea turtles he and his men found basking on the shoals gave the islands their name. A high speed ferry of sea plane from Key West will get you to the Tortugas, the most remote of America's National Parks. Just west of the Marquesas Keys are coral reefs where an experienced diver can feel as though they're a character in Finding Nemo.

FLICKR: BRUCE TUTEN

FLICKR: CAYABO

Big Pine Key, Bahia Honda State Park

Take the road north from Key West and enter miles of leafy mangroves growing around a series of smaller keys that the beloved manatee calls home. From the Overseas Highway, you can see the remains of the historic railroad Standard Oil partner Henry Flagler used to pave a way into the area in 1912. Entering Big Pine Key, look for an endangered white-tailed deer half the size of ones found in Canada.

Marathon, Pigeon Key

Locals give the keys their character and on Marathon, Turtle Hospital founder Richie Moretti, a one-time mechanic, is excited to share his passion for the gentle beasts. You can visit his recovering loggerhead, Ridley and green sea turtle patients, who are then released back into the wild. Pieces of the original Flagler railway that linked the island keys in 1912 come closely into focus travelling to Marathon.

FLICKR: EASYGIE

Key Largo

Hollywood actor Humphrey Bogart left his mark on the keys when he starred in the film noir gangster flick Key Largo. The story of Bogie holing up in a hotel during a hurricane, only to find it swarming with gangsters, became so popular the area changed its original Spanish name. It was no longer Cayo Largo, the longest key. This area is also known as the diving capital of the world. If you don't have time to take a scuba crash course, travel on a glass-bottomed boat from John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

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Soak up a different side of Mexico

After a few all-inclusive vacations, you'll reach a tipping point. When you need a break from evening shows and bland buffets, these Mexico boutique hotels will exceed your expectations — in fact, you may never want to go back to resorts ever again.

KAREN KWAN
life@metronews.ca

For the foodie: Viceroy Riviera Maya

This luxe 41-room hotel in Playa del Carmen features stunning suites set in a tropical forest. Needs you didn't even realize you had will be met: enjoy a refreshing chilled towel on the beach, purify inside and out in a traditional temezcal (a.k.a sweat lodge) and have your sunglasses cleaned while lounging in a canopied sunbed. Your only concern here? What delicious food to order. Chef Jetzabel Rojas serves a menu of authentic Mexican dishes including pastel azteca (think layers of tortilla, chicken, corn and sour cream) for breakfast at the beachside Coral Grill.

ALL PHOTOS HANDOUTS

For the activities lover: Hotel B

For a fun, beach house vibe, get yourself to Hotel B in Cozumel. The modest rooms are outweighed by phenomenal views of the Caribbean sea (nearly all 41 rooms face the ocean) along with the blissful infinity pool and Jacuzzi. Morning yoga classes are offered daily, as are workshops — topics range from photography and ceviche to tequila tastings and craft making — and you can snorkel right in front of the property. Souvenir hunters will not have to look far for local items; all of the art and crafts, such as hand-carved figurines and brightly woven baskets, in the rooms and around the hotel are sourced from Mexican artisans and are available for sale.

For the relaxation seeker: Villa Rolandi

A more laidback pace goes hand in hand with island living and Isla Mujeres is no exception. Leave your stress at the dock in Cancun as Villa Rolandi's private yacht, Cocoon, whisks you over to the secluded 35-room hotel. The hotel boasts three pools, including one oversized saltwater hot tub, a private beach and one of the few Thalasso spas in Mexico (it's also equipped with a Vichy shower). Rent a golf cart (the preferred mode of transportation here) to take a tour around the one-mile-wide by five-miles-long island. Plan for at least one meal at the hotel's Casa Rolandi restaurant; the fresh seafood carpaccio makes it a worthy pit stop.

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STEPHANIE GRAY
life@metronews.ca

The luxurious Iberostar Varadero in Varadero, Cuba. FLICKR: MATTJP

For luxury seekers: Paradisus Cancun, Mexico
Anyone in search of A-list treatment needs to look no further than the newly opened Paradisus Cancun. Opt for royal service, which includes the assistance of a personal butler, guaranteed reservations at restaurants, plus access to a private beach area and pool — complete with your own concierge who is at your beck and call.

The star service doesn't end there either, with 24-hour room service, bottomless Margaritas and an on-site spa. You'll never want your vacation to end.

For families: Iberostar Varadero, Cuba
The white sand beach is just the beginning for this five-star beachfront resort that contains all of the all-inclusive amenities you'd expect, plus extras for bringing along the little ones. The biggest perk is one child under 13 stays and eats free when sharing a room with two adults.

During the day when you're in need of some quiet time, they can have their own fun in the Mini-Club, a supervised play area for kids aged four to 12.

For couples: Secrets St. James Montego Bay, Jamaica
A peaceful, oceanfront resort, it's all about self-indulgence here. No wristbands, restaurant reservations or anyone under the age of 18, for starters.

Unlimited isn't used lightly here, from top-shelf drinks at every bar to 24-hour room service best used when the thought of leaving your bed feels like too much effort.

Get even more extras, like sparkling wine and discounted spa treatments, when booking a honeymoon or anniversary package.

For adventurers: Flamingo Beach Resort & Spa Guanacaste, Costa Rica
Room-only or all-inclusive, this resort is the ultimate basecamp for exploring the region's diverse setting from volcano hikes and canopy zip-lining to taking a dip in natural hot springs. A short boat ride from the resort you'll find one of the country's top diving spots at the Catalina Islands. Staying on-site isn't too shabby either with rentals for ATVs, kayaks, and paddle boards available by the hour.

For golfers: Meliá Caribe Tropical All Inclusive Beach & Golf Resort, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Why you should go: Not every all-inclusive can boast having a world-class 27-hole championship golf on their property. Multiple rounds of golf are included in most packages, with an additional fee for the golf cart. When your tee time is over you can ruminate over the game with a cocktail at one of their 14 bars or dine at one of 13 restaurants. And if it's your tan you plan on working on, there are 10 pools to lounge by, or better yet, pull up a lounge chair on the sandy white beach — oceanview included.

© 2013 TELUS.

Ski the slopes and support an athlete at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort

There's still time to book a ski vacation. And why not try a unique, small mountain-town with a beautiful view

GIZELLE LAU
life@metronews.ca

Kicking Horse is the first four-season mountain resort to open in the Canadian Rockies in 25 years. HANDOUT

Make the most of what's left of winter, Canada. Get those legs moving and head out west to Golden, B.C., for a genuine boutique ski resort experience at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort. Just 2.5 hours from Calgary, the drive is certainly not a tedious one; complete with views of snow-capped mountains, heavy green conifers and frozen, bluer-than-blue waterfalls in the distance.

And if champagne powder wasn't a good enough reason to go, this winter (until May 1st) when you book a stay in Kicking Horse's Glacier Mountaineer Lodge (a Bellstar Resort), you could support local Olympic hopeful Brady Leman, a Bellstar-Resort-sponsored athlete. A World Cup Ski Cross Gold and Silver Medalist, Leman is one of Canada's biggest hopes at Sochi 2014 — and no stranger to Kicking Horse.

As the first four-season mountain resort to open in the Canadian Rockies in 25 years, Kicking Horse offers a unique, small mountain-town experience with all the skiable terrain of the big resorts. No crowds, no lineups, no parking hassles and all while boasting the third-highest vertical drop in Canada.

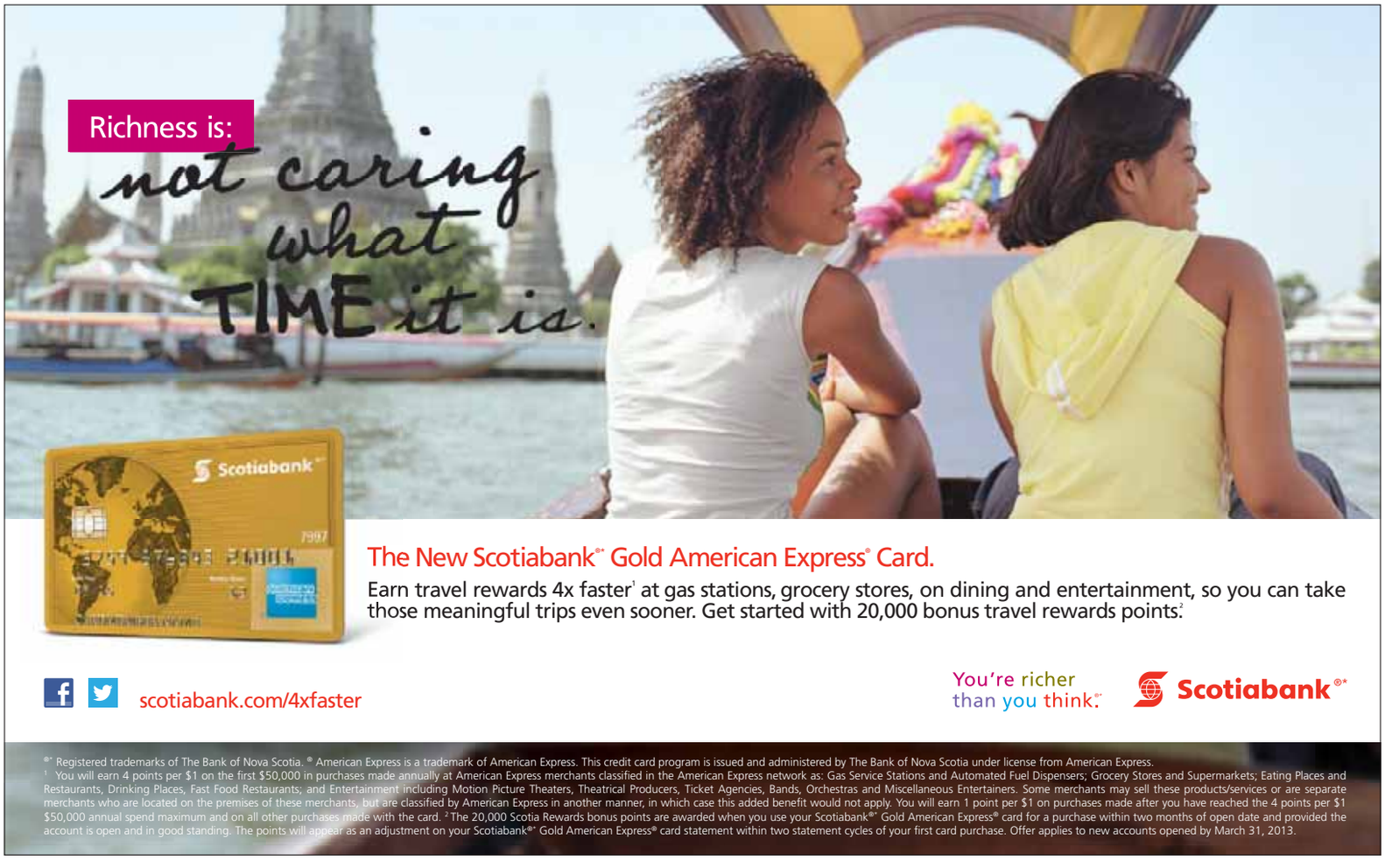
Up top (a 12-minute gondola ride to almost 8,000 feet), jaw-dropping panoramic views make you feel like you're on top of the world, overlooking almost all six surrounding national parks, including Banff, Glacier, Kootenay, Yoho, Mt. Revelstoke and Jasper. It just doesn't get any better than this — that is, until you get to make your way down — into cavernous bowls of fluffy white snow, winding through untouched trails, down into the puffy layer of cloud, at which point you may realize you haven't seen another skier in ages and all you can hear is the sound of your feet schussing all the way down. Now that's golden.

The lowdown

Perks. Once considered a resort exclusively for advanced skiers or snowboarders, in the past five years, Kicking Horse has developed numerous trails and lessons that are beginner and intermediate-friendly. On Sundays, Kicking Horse offers Powder Room ski clinics just for women — a great way to learn, improve and build confidence in a supportive environment.

Stay. For couples or small families, stay at Bellstar's Kicking Horse Glacier Mountain Lodge, conveniently located at the bottom of the mountain, just steps from the gondola and rental shop. For larger groups, Bellstar's Homes Collection offers large multi-family ski chalets like 1601 Cache Estates: fully furnished and stocked, complete with outdoor hot tub and a roaring gas fireplace.

More information. Go to bellstar.ca, glaciermountaineer.com or kickinghorseresort.com.



They'll be gone in a New York minute

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These petite cheesecakes are perfect for one serving and leave none to go to waste.

They can also be ready sooner than a regular-sized cheesecake, since they chill much faster. Baking the cheesecakes in a water bath — a pan filled with water — keeps them moist and prevents them from sinking in the middle.

Serve them with fresh berries or a fruit-based dessert sauce and a dusting of icing sugar. I like to garnish with a drizzle of melted fruit sorbet, such as mango or raspberry.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper muffin liners.

2. Combine the ricotta, cream cheese, sour cream, egg, vanilla, lemon juice, zest, flour and sugar in a food processor and process until smooth and creamy. Divide the mixture among the prepared muffin cups.

3. Set the muffin tin in a larger pan or on a baking sheet with sides. Pour enough hot water into the pan to come one-third to one-half up the sides of the muffin cups.

4. Bake in the centre of the oven for 20 minutes.

5. Remove the muffin tin from the water bath and cool to room temperature on a rack. Chill for 1 hour.

6. To serve, remove the paper liners and place on individual serving plates. Garnish with berries and a sprinkle of icing sugar.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups smooth light ricotta
- 3/4 cup light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup light sour cream
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar

New-York-Style Miniature Cheesecakes

This recipe makes 12 cheesecakes. BRIAN MACDONALD FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Cinnabomb

A tasty explosion of three types of alcohol with ginger ale, this Cinnabomb is sure to be a crowd please at any get-together.

- .5 oz Smirnoff Vanilla Vodka
- .5 oz Grand Marnier
- .5 oz Goldschlager
- Cinnamon/sugar for rim
- Ginger ale
- Cranberries for garnish

Shake alcohol with ice in shaker.

Rim glass with cinnamon sugar. Add fresh ice to martini glass.

Strain shaker contents into fresh ice. Top with ginger ale.

Float 3 cranberries on top of ice. Add a cocktail straw and serve. PHOTO AND RECIPE: FIRKIN PUBS, FIRKINPUBS.COM

STUDYING ABROAD IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

The Study and Go Abroad Fair will take place March 5 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, and will feature top-ranking universities and student travel companies from around the globe offering undergraduate and post-graduate programs, gap year options and adventure travel for students of all ages.

A full program of information seminars on a range of exciting topics is scheduled throughout the day starting at 2 p.m. with a guest speaker from the Australian Trade Commission talking about study opportunities in Australia.

"This is a great opportunity for students to make their dreams a reality," says Anita Kuehnel, director. "There is a misconception that studying abroad is expensive, which doesn't have to be the case. University fees vary greatly depending on the country and the program, and various academic and athletic scholarships are available, especially in the U.S. and England."

More than 70 universities from the U.S., U.K., Australia, Italy, Switzerland, the Caribbean and many other countries will be showcasing programs in medicine, law, pharmacy, hotel management, business, technology, science, and culinary and liberal arts among other fields. Visitors who are planning a gap year, or looking for other travel options, can visit the Travel Pavilion for work abroad, volunteer, and internship programs.

Exhibitor profiles, scholarship information and seminar schedules for the Study and Go Abroad Fair can be found online at studyandgoabroad.com, along with details of the grand prize draw.

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Job hunting. Four tips to fix stale cover letters

Write cover letters in a friendly tone and land a dream interview. ISTOCK PHOTO

LINDSAY ROTHMAN
TalentEgg.ca

Navigating the world of resumés and cover letters is like trying to do an assignment without any guidelines from your professor.

At school, if you wrote an organized and well-researched paper, you'd get a decent—if not a great— mark.

Job hunting is a different story. Nothing has prepared you for the game of resumés and cover letters. When you don't hear back from employers after applying, it's hard to know what needs improvement.

We recently completed a round of hiring at Influitive, the company I work for. Based on my experience, I'd like to share some resumé and cover letter tips that will help you land your next job interview.

1. Pretend you're on Twitter
If your cover letter was a tweet, what would it say? Get right to the point.

Lose the, "I'm applying for the ABC position at EFG Corporation that was posted on the student careers website of University XYZ."

Writing this sentence on Twitter would be a total waste of characters. Instead, your cover letter should start with your pitch: "I'd be a great fit for the ABC position because XYZ."

2. Ditch the R2-D2 vibe
Write a cover letter the way you would write a blog post — using a human voice.

Read your cover letter out loud. Now read a post from your blog out loud. Notice a difference? Your cover letter is written in a robotic voice that you may think sounds professional. It's not.

You invite employers to check out your blog, yet they won't click the link because they've already seen your writing via your cover letter and, let me tell you, they're not impressed.

3. Lose your laundry lists
Why does your resumé include laundry lists of each daily task you performed for all the jobs you've ever had?

Recruitment experts rant about this resumé problem all the time, yet it came up so often in the round of hiring we just did. According to Andy Porter, HR executive and prominent recruitment blogger, candidates should pitch themselves as accomplishers as opposed to doers. Make achievements the focal point of your resumé and cover letter, and cut the rest out.

4. Stop the resumé firing squad
We all know the drill: modify a few resumé buzzwords, change the company name and job title and fire off multiple applications into cyberspace. Instead, opt for a quality-over-quantity approach by applying to a few positions very well.

Get stylish with an infographic resumé

Visual data. Attractive image-based format allows prospective employers to quickly scan work history

MICHELLE CIRCOSTA
TalentEgg.ca

On average, employers spend somewhere around 45 seconds reviewing a resumé.

Resumé writing aims to help the employer to effortlessly extract and retain the most vital information. The art of resumé writing consists of successfully transferring the story of your professional life onto one page.

Enter the infographic, a tool that visually represents and simplifies complex data. An infographic resumé is a unique way to condense and quantify the information on your resumé. Not to mention it looks slick, contemporary and really awesome.

Cheryl Ticne, a Vancouver-based information designer and recent BCIT graduate, has developed a template for her own infographic resumé (pictured) and has been testing the efficiency of this tool in the workforce.

Ticne says she chose to try this approach to give employers an instant idea of her skills. With the endless submissions of resumés received by HR departments, the infographic resumé makes it easy to process information quickly in an organized and catchy format.

It took Ticne around three days to come up with the initial design for her resumé. The inspiration comes from other designs combined with her own ideas. "It was quite a process for me to finally have a resumé that presented me very well," she says.

Infographic resumés, like this one by Vancouver designer Cheryl Ticne, can grab employers' attention. CONTRIBUTED

This is a familiar struggle amongst job-seekers. The infographic resumé for Ticne is a perfect example of a unique, relevant, and interesting way to present your skills.

One employer even told her that her resumé was at the top of his pile due to its unique and professional esthetics.

An infographic resumé is not an option limited to those in the field of design or graphics. This format is perfect for individuals who carry a lot of information on their resumé since it helps employers quickly understand exactly what the candidate is about. Incorporating this concept doesn't mean that the entire resumé has to be an infographic, either. Simply adding a few images can give your resumé a little something extra. Breaking up the sometimes mundane text can really help prevent you from being lost in the black hole of redundant submissions.

What it all means

- The numbers on Cheryl Ticne's resumé represent either duration of experience or amount of knowledge, based on her interpretation.
- The purpose of these numbers is to provide a visual comparison of information that gives employers a stronger idea of her strengths.

We know all too well the importance of having a perfect resumé. Finding the balance between creativity and professionalism can be the ultimate challenge. Tactics such as adding infographics can be helpful as long as it is in line with the context of the position for which you are applying.

If an employer is only going to spend 45 seconds reviewing your resumé, you better make the seconds count. How you do that is entirely up to you.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Here's how to build a media arts portfolio on a student budget

Work samples. Put together a creative folder and get more networking experience in your field

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

While finding an internship in the competitive field of the arts or media can be tough, there are things you can do on your own that will show employers you're not the type to just sit around and wait for things to happen, but rather you like to take action.

The best thing to do when you're studying in a field such as media, architecture or visual arts is to make your very own personalized creative folder that features all your work, which will act as a great tool to take along with you to interviews.

The portfolio will serve as a work sample, showcasing all of your abilities and talents that you would bring to the table.

Here are a few ways you can build your portfolio on your own:

Write

Many colleges and universities have their own school newspapers, so try your best to find out how you can become a contributor.

School newspapers provide students with a variety of opportunities to showcase their talent by writing articles, opinion pieces, advice columns, sports columns, promoting school events and even creating cartoon strips.

You can often find opportunities to get writing experience outside of school, too.

Blog

Try starting up your own professional blog on free sites such as WordPress or tumblr.

Make sure to keep your blog interesting and relevant, and keep up-to-date on the industry you hope to work for (but stay away from blogging on sensitive issues, such as culture, religion and politics, as you don't want to end up offending a reader).

You don't necessarily have to write all that much either —you can share videos, pictures, tweets, links, GIFs and other media.

Creative arts

If you are the creative type, I strongly recommend Behance.net. This global online platform will allow you to create and upload your own special creative projects in several areas such as graphic design, typography, animation and motion graphics.

The site will also allow you to document which digital programs you used to create your work and to post your work up for sale.

Not only will these do-it-yourself projects help you gain experience in your field, but they will also help to enlarge your professional network and can provide a source of extra cash if you decide you're good enough to charge for your work.

So what are you waiting for?

Get creative, find your passion and show employers what you've got.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Photography

- **Equipment.** If you love taking photos, invest in or borrow a good quality camera and embark on the endless possibilities to discover the types of digital media you can create.
- **Experiment.** If you are into event photography, snapping pics at events on your campus is perhaps the best way to develop some skills and experience in that area. Want to practice portraits? Round up friends and offer to take professional photos for their LinkedIn profiles.

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A taste of what you can do in the food industry

Culinary skills. Spice up your career—there's more options than you realize

YLVA VAN BUREN
careerbear.com

OK, you love to eat. And cook. You think of yourself as something of a foodie and your idea of a good book is one with four-colour food shots and recipes that make your mouth water. Favourite TV shows? Cooking ones, of course.

So why not take all that passion and turn it into a career? There are tons of culinary directions to go in — here are the six hottest ones.

Chef: A chef is a professional cook who prepares, cooks and presents meals. While celebrity chefs are all the rage, there are lots of chef and sous-chef (a chef's assistant) positions in restaurants and hotels as well as hospitals and catering companies.

Pastry chef: A pastry chef specializes in making pastries, desserts, breads and other baked goods. Pastry chefs are specially trained. They work in professional kitchens and are employed by large hotels, bistros, restaurants, bakeries and some cafés. Some pastry chefs can be self-employed.

Caterer: A caterer works closely with clients to develop menus for any event, large or small, like weddings, charity balls, holiday parties and office lunches. The caterer prepares all the food and delivers it to the event. Caterers work long hours and have a flair for presentation and customer service.

Recipe developer: A recipe developer is exactly that — someone who creates recipes. These can be for consumers, magazines, businesses and commercial clients. They're on top of current food and nutrition trends and know how to combine ingredients and cooking styles to appeal to a wide range of tastes. Some specialize in one type of cooking or cooking style.

Food stylist: A food stylist prepares food for photo shoots and makes it look so delicious you're tempted to lick the page.

Stylists work closely with the photographer, using tips and trade secrets to create compelling images (but trust me, you wouldn't be able to eat the food). Most food stylists are self-employed and work in editorial, advertising and packaging.

Product developer: Product developers love food but they also love marketing. In this career, you work on new food products for a manufacturer or retailer from conception through to how the food is made in a commercial kitchen (so big quantities) to helping bring the product to market.

The great web of work

- Career Bear is Canada's premier source for people who want a new career but aren't sure where to start.
- Visitors to the website can browse careers by industry, salary, outlook or alphabetical listing and find job profiles, quick career facts and training programs near them.

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Time 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Location Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver
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Trek to your new job in all things travel

Destination dream career. Trends point to a desire for expertise

YLVA VAN BUREN
Metro World News in New York

If you thought a career in the travel business was no longer viable thanks to online booking, think again. There was a dip in the number of people booking with a travel professional when online booking opportunities exploded, but the challenge, frustration and disappointment of book-it-yourself holidays has resulted in a surge of travellers returning to a trusted and experienced travel consultant. Here's a few reasons why travel is an exciting career — again!

Trends in the travel sector promise an ever-changing career path. ISTOCK PHOTO

1. The service trend is here to stay.

Leisure travel consumers are tired of going it alone and wading through mountains of online travel data that often offers dubious advice. "People are in search of solid and reputable travel information," says Brenda Kyllo, vice president of travel for CAA's national office.

2. Senior travel is exploding

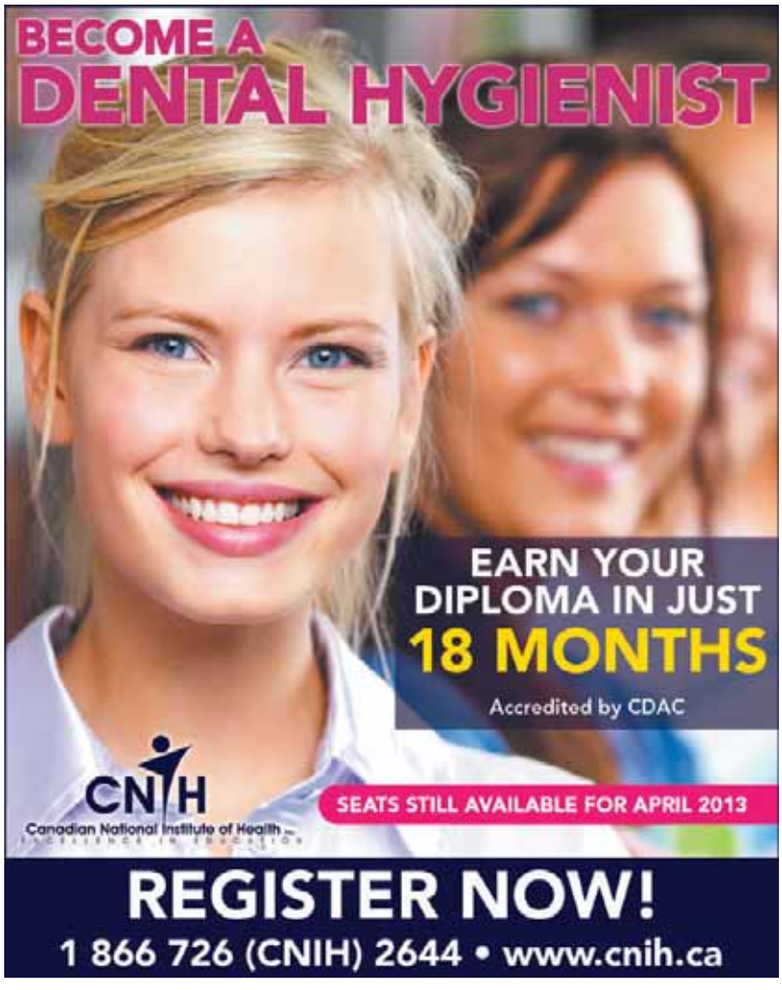
As the senior population continues to swell, the demand for travel will grow right along with it. This demographic is helping build the current trend in group travel, says Kyllo.

3. Do-it-yourself backlash

Kyllo says travellers are feeling frustrated and overwhelmed by the endless stream of online information. As a result, many are turning back to travel professionals.

The great web of work

- Career Bear is Canada's premier source for people who want a new career but aren't sure where to start.
- Visitors to the website can browse careers by industry, salary, outlook or alphabetical listing and find job profiles, quick career facts and training programs near them.



It's a good feeling to land a great job. Talk to VCC about your career options at one of these free information sessions:

Program	Campus
Dental hygiene Wednesday, Feb. 27, 5 p.m. – room 501	Downtown
American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf studies Wednesday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m. – room 2555	Broadway
Culinary arts and Asian culinary arts Friday, Mar. 1, 9:30 a.m. – room 112 (theatre)	Downtown
Building service worker Monday, Mar. 4, 1 p.m. – room 206	Downtown
Music Monday, Mar. 4, 3:45 p.m. – room 1228	Broadway
Transportation trades Tuesday, Mar. 5, 11 a.m. – lobby, building B	Broadway
Teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) Tuesday, Mar. 5, 12 p.m. – room 512	Downtown

Downtown campus is located at 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton, two blocks west of Stadium SkyTrain station.

Broadway campus is located at 1155 East Broadway, one block west of Clark Drive and across from VCC/Clark SkyTrain station.

Visit **vcc.ca** or call **604.871.7000**.

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www.vcc.ca

SPORTS 4

Antoine Vermette of the Phoenix Coyotes slips past Alexander Edler of the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday. Phoenix won 4-2. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

Visiting Coyotes feast on Canucks

NHL. First time this season Vancouver has dropped back-to-back losses in regulation

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

On Tuesday

Coyotes	Canucks
4	2

It's tough playing from behind, and it seems that adage is magnified when it's against the tight-checking Phoenix Coyotes.

The Vancouver Canucks got a first-hand lesson Tuesday night, as they spotted the visiting Coyotes a pair of two-goal leads then couldn't complete a third-period comeback in a 4-2 loss before an announced sellout crowd at Rogers Arena.

The Canucks have now lost back-to-back games in regulation for the first time all season, after they were shellacked in Detroit on Sunday.

Antoine Vermette scored the winning goal at 12:32 of the third period, sneaking a puck through Canucks goalie Cory Schneider and just past the goal line.

The Canucks made a game of it, getting to within one when Daniel Sedin's shot from the right half-boards was deflected by twin brother Henrik through the legs of Phoenix goalie Mike Smith.

For Henrik Sedin, it was his 600th consecutive NHL game.

But the comeback was halted.

The Coyotes shut the door and Kyle Chipchura, who opened the scoring in the first period, closed it with an empty-net goal with 23 seconds remaining.

The fans emptied the arena and the Canucks skated off with nothing. The shots on the scoreboard read 31-22 for Vancouver.

They couldn't beat Smith when necessary, and second chances around the Coyotes net were limited at best.

Chipchura broke the ice in the first period with his third of the season.

The Coyotes centre was allowed to walk out from behind the Canucks net, into the bottom of the faceoff circle to Schneider's right and then had a free pass to the net, roofing a backhander past the Canucks keeper.

Mikkel Boedker gave the Coyotes a 2-0 lead in the second period, before Jason Garrison cut the Canucks deficit in half with a half-slapshot from the point that got through traffic and past Smith.

MLB

Morneau rounds into form vs. Jays

Justin Morneau is finding his hitting touch early in preparation for the World Baseball Classic.

Morneau had two hits, including an RBI double, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-4 on Tuesday.

Morneau will suit up for Canada in next month's WBC.

"Just to get my legs underneath me," Morneau said. "There's a big difference between playing five innings and playing nine. Knowing we're going to start earlier with the WBC, crank it up a little bit earlier." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

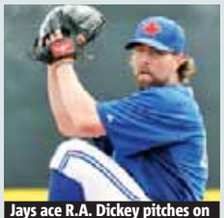
Dickey to know his catcher post-WBC

The Toronto Blue Jays will decide who catches knuckleballer R.A. Dickey after the World Baseball Classic, says manager John Gibbons.

Incumbent J.P. Arencibia has insisted he wants to handle Dickey this season though the Jays have three catchers in camp — Henry Blanco, Josh Thole and Mike Nickeas — who have experience working with Dickey.

Both Dickey and Arencibia will join the U.S. team at the World Baseball Classic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jays ace R.A. Dickey pitches on Monday in Dunedin, Fla. GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Wild edge Flames with Parise overtime tally

The Minnesota Wild spent almost $200 million US to sign Zach Parise and Ryan Suter this past off-season. So far, the investment has generated mixed results.

Perhaps Parise's goal 27 seconds into overtime and in Tuesday night's comeback 2-1 win over the Calgary Flames will get Minnesota going.

"If we thought that we were just going to sign a couple players and all of a sudden we've arrived, and they were going to open the gates, and here we are, a playoff team, that's not reality," Wild coach Mike Yeo said.

"It's hard. You have to do a lot of things to be a winner, to find yourself at that point."

Jason Zucker scored for Minnesota with 4:19 left in regulation to send it to overtime.

Calgary's Mark Giordano was then given a delay-of-game penalty with 43 seconds to go.

The penalty carried over into the extra period, and Parise beat goalie Joey MacDonald for the 4-on-3 winner.

Parise's goal was only Minnesota's fourth in its last 41 power-play opportunities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Ryder returns to old habitat in Montreal

Michael Ryder is a Hab once again.

The Montreal Canadiens acquired Ryder and a third-round draft pick in 2013 from Dallas for forward Erik Cole.

Ryder had a career-high 35 goals for the Stars last season with 27 assists. He has six goals and eight assists in 19 games this year.

Ryder was drafted in the eighth round by Montreal in 1998 and had a career-high 63 points for the Habs in 2003-04.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Kings send Gagne back to Philadelphia

The Los Angeles Kings traded Simon Gagne back to the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday for a conditional draft pick, sending the struggling left wing back to the city where he had his greatest NHL success.

Gagne spent his first 10 NHL seasons with the Flyers, but won his first Stanley Cup last season in L.A. after a late-playoff return from a concussion. He hasn't scored a goal in 11 games this season for the Kings, who decided the veteran didn't fit in coach Darryl Sutter's system.

Before Gagne asked for a trade, Kings general manager Dean Lombardi sent him back to Philadelphia.

Los Angeles gets a third-round pick if Philadelphia makes the playoffs or a fourth-round pick if the Flyers miss the post-season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"They're really gentlemen to do that to me this year."

Simon Gagne, who was thankful toward the Kings for pulling the trigger on Tuesday's trade.

Whitecaps midfielder Gershon Koffie makes a pass against the Charleston Battery on Feb. 16 in Charleston, S.C. RAINIER EHRHARDT/GETTY IMAGES

Koffie one happy Whitecaps camper

MLS. Young Ghanaian midfielder signs extension with Vancouver and obtains permanent Canadian residency card

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Gershon Koffie didn't have to say much at first. His ear-to-ear smile told more than words ever could.

Koffie, the 21-year-old midfielder from Ghana, signed a contract extension with the Vancouver Whitecaps in a deal that was officially announced Tuesday. He also obtained his permanent Canadian residency card.

"For … Vancouver to be my home, I'm excited," Koffie told reporters following training at UBC.

He first signed with the Whitecaps in September 2010. It was an opportunity in a new city in a different country, a new team, a new league.

Koffie getting his residency card is also beneficial for the Whitecaps. He now becomes a domestic player in Major League Soccer, which frees up an international spot on the roster.

The Whitecaps have 11 international spots for this year, and 10 of those spots are already filled by players under contract.

They can opt to bring in another player of international status.

This upcoming season marks Koffie's third with the Whitecaps. He has a combined 56 starts over the past two seasons, and is coming off a sophomore season that saw him score three goals and add two assists.

His athletic faculties are impressive. He's six feet tall, strong on the ball and has shown glimpses that he can be a formidable player on the attack. But there is still room for improvement in Koffie's game as a centre midfielder, especially considering his age.

"I think Gershon, as a young kid coming in, has shown a lot of promise," said Whitecaps captain Jay DeMerit.

"And now he's starting to become a more mature person on and off the field.... By no means is he out of the woods. He still has a lot of things to work on but his intangibles, his strength on the ball, his ability to find a pass and get behind the ball and defend, (he's) one of the better guys in this league that can do that."

Quoted

"I was nervous the first time I came here.... As time goes on, I get used to the city, the fans, the club, and I feel like I'm home."

Whitecaps midfielder Gershon Koffie

DeMerit injury

Captain hopes to play vs. TFC

The hope right now is captain and centre back Jay DeMerit will play in the Whitecaps' MLS regular-season opener against Toronto FC at BC Place.

DeMerit, 33, played in only one exhibition game during the pre-season — actually it was only a single half on Feb. 2 against Houston — due to Achilles tendinitis. He was back at training Tuesday.

"I think he should be fine but if he isn't, we've actually got a really good replacement with Brad Rusin," said head coach Martin Rennie.

"So either way we feel very confident on Saturday but Jay looked good (Tuesday) and I think he'll be fine." CAM TUCKER/METRO

Jay DeMerit GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLS. Toronto FC captain Frings retires just days before opener at BC Place

Torsten Frings worked out diligently, rehabilitating his hip at home in Germany in hopes of capping his career with one final season in Toronto.

But in the end, his injury proved too much to overcome.

Toronto FC's captain announced his retirement Tuesday after 18 seasons as a pro, leaving the game with the same measure of class with which he carried himself on the field.

He stepped away, he explained, because he could no longer give his all to the team.

"I think (retirement) is the best for the club and for me. I can't help the club if I'm not 100 per cent fit, and I'm not 100 per cent fit," Frings said at a morning news conference.

"It's an emotional day for me. I'm disappointed because of my body, but I'm happy with my decision," he added. "I had a great career and it's not worth it to play with pain. It's not easy to say goodbye."

The 36-year-old former German international was coming back from hip surgery that cut short his MLS season last September. He made one pre-season appearance as a substitute this month before leaving camp to attend to what TFC called a personal issue. Turns out, he was contemplating his future.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Torsten Frings announces his retirement on Tuesday at BMO Field in Toronto. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NBA

James, Wade do it again in latest Heat victory

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra summed up the efforts of LeBron James and Dwyane Wade in three words: "Video-game numbers," he said.

Both put up monster stat lines.

And the Miami Heat needed them.

James scored 40 points and added a career-high 16 assists, Wade had 39 points, and the Heat pushed their winning streak to 12 games by outlasting the Sacramento Kings 141-129 in double overtime on Tuesday night.

"Some great stat lines tonight," James said. "But I'm happy I was able to do what I did and help our team win."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In February, LeBron James finished 139 for 217 from the floor for a 64.1 percentage, by far the best shooting month of his career. GETTY IMAGES

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	14	.745	—
Indiana	36	21	.632	6
New York	33	20	.623	7
Brooklyn	34	24	.586	8½
Atlanta	32	23	.582	9
Chicago	32	25	.561	10
Boston	30	27	.526	12
Milwaukee	27	28	.491	14
Toronto	23	34	.404	19
Philadelphia	22	33	.400	19
Detroit	22	37	.373	21
Cleveland	19	38	.333	23
Washington	18	37	.327	23
Orlando	16	41	.281	26
Charlotte	13	43	.232	28½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	45	13	.776	—
Oklahoma City	41	15	.732	3
L.A. Clippers	40	18	.690	5
Memphis	37	18	.673	6½
Denver	36	22	.621	9
Golden State	33	24	.579	11½
Utah	31	26	.544	13½
Houston	31	27	.534	14
L.A. Lakers	28	30	.483	17
Portland	26	30	.464	18
Dallas	25	31	.446	19
Minnesota	20	34	.370	23
New Orleans	20	38	.345	25
Sacramento	19	39	.328	26
Phoenix	19	39	.328	26

Note: division leaders ranked in top three positions regardless of winning percentage.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Indiana 108 Golden State 97
Orlando 98 Philadelphia 84
Miami 141 Sacramento 129 (2OT)
Brooklyn 101 New Orleans 97
Cleveland 101 Chicago 98
Milwaukee 95 Dallas 90
Phoenix 84 Minnesota 83 (OT)
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 90 **Toronto 84**
Atlanta 114 Detroit 103
Boston 110 Utah 107 (OT)
Denver 119 L.A. Lakers 108

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Sacramento at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
Golden State at New York, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Houston, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Utah, 9 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	20	13	7	0	69	54	26
New Jersey	19	10	5	4	48	49	24
Philadelphia	21	9	11	1	60	66	19
NY Rangers	18	8	8	2	44	48	18
NY Islanders	20	8	11	1	57	68	17

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Montreal	19	12	4	3	53	41	27
Boston	16	12	2	2	49	35	26
Ottawa	20	12	6	2	48	37	26
Toronto	20	12	8	0	57	46	24
Buffalo	20	7	12	1	50	64	15

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Carolina	18	9	8	1	50	54	19
Tampa Bay	19	9	9	1	70	60	19
Winnipeg	19	9	9	1	52	60	19
Florida	19	6	9	4	48	69	16
Washington	18	7	10	1	51	55	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	19	16	0	3	61	37	35
Nashville	20	9	6	5	44	47	23
St. Louis	18	10	6	2	55	52	22
Detroit	19	9	7	3	57	54	21
Columbus	20	5	12	3	44	61	13

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Vancouver	18	10	4	4	52	48	24
Minnesota	18	9	7	2	39	43	20
Calgary	18	7	7	4	49	61	18
Edmonton	18	7	7	4	42	49	18
Colorado	17	7	8	2	42	51	16

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	17	13	3	1	59	47	27
Dallas	20	10	8	2	56	57	22
Los Angeles	17	9	6	2	45	41	20
San Jose	17	8	6	3	41	39	19
Phoenix	18	8	7	3	50	49	19

Note: A team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OL (other loss) column.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Winnipeg 4 NY Rangers 3
Dallas 5 Columbus 4 (OT)
Washington 3 Carolina 0
Boston 4 NY Islanders 1
Buffalo 2 Tampa Bay 1
Florida 6 Pittsburgh 4
Minnesota 2 Calgary 1 (OT)
Phoenix at Vancouver
Colorado at San Jose

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 4 Philadelphia 2
Ottawa 2 Montreal 1 (SO)
Nashville 5 Dallas 4 (OT)
Chicago 3 Edmonton 2 (OT)
Los Angeles 5 Anaheim 2

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern
Washington at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Nashville at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Tampa Bay at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Detroit at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

GOLF

PGA TOUR

WORLD RANKINGS

Through February 26

1. Rory McIlroy	11.66
2. Tiger Woods	8.83
3. Luke Donald	7.25
4. Brandt Snedeker	6.74
5. Louis Oosthuizen	6.35
6. Justin Rose	6.32
7. Adam Scott	5.58
8. Matt Kuchar	5.45
9. Lee Westwood	5.37
10. Ian Poulter	5.23
11. Bubba Watson	5.18
12. Phil Mickelson	5.16
13. Steve Stricker	5.02
14. Charl Schwartzel	4.97
15. Jason Dufner	4.93
16. Webb Simpson	4.81
17. Sergio Garcia	4.77
18. Keegan Bradley	4.75
19. Graeme McDowell	4.58
20. Dustin Johnson	4.56
21. Hunter Mahan	4.52
22. Peter Hanson	4.32
23. Nick Watney	4.25
24. Ernie Els	4.10
25. Bo Van Pelt	4.02

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No purchase necessary. Contest starts February 1, 2013 to April 30, 2013. Three monthly winners to be drawn at each of the 4 Mercedes-Benz Vancouver Area Retail Group locations above on February 27, 2013, March 29, 2013, April 30, 2013 (12 winners total). Three Grand Prize winners will be drawn from all stores on April 30, 2013. One entry per maintenance bill. Number of entries depends upon the amount of maintenance services conducted. Full rules available at mbvancouver.ca

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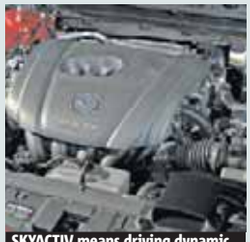
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $26,200



SKYACTIV means driving dynamic that's supposed to be closer to what you get in a sports car.

Engine

The base engine — in fact the only available powerplant at this point since the V6 is toast — is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder that makes 184 horsepower and 185 pound-feet of torque. The uniqueness of the new four-cylinder is its higher-than-usual 13:1 compression ratio that gives the engine extra punch.

Design

From most angles the Mazda6 is more expressive than the previous version and closely resembles Mazda's Shinari and Takeri concept cars that revealed a new styling direction. The front-end treatment is arguably the best looking in this class, while the rest retains the familiar sweep of the roofline and truncated rear.

Review. The more established members of the mid-size sedan class are in for a shock once they spy this car

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

For Mazda, shaking up the automotive establishment is all in a day's work.

Always the rebel, Mazda has a reputation for going against the grain in product development. The automaker refuses to offer a hybrid powertrain option, which is tantamount to sacrilege. Instead, it pursues internal-combustion-engine refinement under the SKYACTIV label. The 2013 CX-5 wagon was the first all-new Mazda fitted with this technology (direct fuel injection, etc.) and the recently launched third-edition Mazda6 is following suit.

From most angles the Mazda6 is more expressive than the previous version and closely resembles Mazda's Shinari and Takeri concept cars that revealed a new styling direction. The front-end treatment is arguably the best looking in this class, while the rest of the car doesn't stray too far from the past and retains the familiar sweep of the roofline and truncated rear.

The new-design Mazda6 sheet metal is the gift-wrapping that hides considerable technological advancements beneath the skin.

Following its initial launch, Mazda will offer a Volkswagen-challenging 2.2-litre four-cylinder turbo-diesel option that also receives the SKYACTIV appellation. It features lowered engine compression that Mazda says makes it clean burning without any nasty particulates exiting the exhaust.

A recent drive in one of Mazda's test mules confirms that the diesel 2.2 generates plenty of torque, but that it also drives just like a gasoline engine without the usual telltale clatter normally associated with diesels. Exact power and torque specs will be released closer to launch.

The base GX model that lists for $26,200, including destination charges, comes with the usual power and comfort ingredients and push-button start. It also comes with a touch-screen display with Bluetooth networking and a rear-view camera.

With its dedicated approach to improving power, reducing overall energy consumption and creating a heartbeat-skipping shell, the Mazda6 will generate plenty of look-sees, or at least make buyers seriously ponder this nifty, thrifty sedan.

The Mazda6 picks up about five centimetres of space between the front and rear wheels for more passenger room. The total length is cut by about the same amount, which means shorter overhangs and tighter proportions.

The interior is super clean and nicely detailed, although it doesn't scream "look at me!" as much as the outside.

By comparison

1 Honda Accord
Base price: $25,600

2 Ford Fusion
Base price: $24,000

3 Nissan Altima
Base price: $25,300

5 DRIVE

The Ford 1965 Mustang, equipped with a 5.0 Cammer engine. FORD ARCHIVES

Revving the five point ... oh!

Autoknow. 420 hp is a great number, but it took a group of Mustang enthusiasts to find it in the 5.0-litre engine

JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.com

As the fender badging points out, Ford began seriously marketing the 302 V8 as litres, but 5.0 is nice, round number. Also round (or flat, perhaps) was its paltry 140 horsepower rating. FORD ARCHIVES

Michael Delproposto owns a 1967 Ford Mustang coupe. Brian Armstrong suns himself at high speed in a red 2007 Shelby GT500 convertible. Adam Christian's 1966 Mustang is part way through its resurrection as a fully modernized classic, while Chris Tucker's weapon of choice is a 1983 Mercury Capri, the twin to the Mustang.

These four, and 14 other Mustang owners, form a special club. They're the men and women responsible for Ford's 5.0-litre V8 found in the current Mustang GT.

Who better to put on the project than people who would fabricate the exhaust manifolds at home in the garage? Yes, engineering savvy from rabid Mustang enthusiasts is what's under the hood of your 420-horsepower 2013 Mustang GT, even if the 5.0 is not technically "back" as Ford has been touting since 2010.

As with the Hemi, the only part of the 5.0 that's truly "back" (and from a rather inglorious past, at that) is the name. Even the displacement is different than the previous 5.0-litre engine — which dates back to the late 1960s as the 302 was actually 4.9 litres.

Forty-year-old technology? Back? We certainly hope not. You could take a lot of shots at the 5.0 over the years for its actual lack of performance under the hood of a stock Mustang and even bigger shots at its 4.6-litre successor that always seemed to be a step or two behind Chevrolet and Chrysler.

While the 4.6 proliferated in the late 1990s, a groundswell of affection for 5.0 kept the old cam-in-block design alive and well and winning all sorts of racing events. In the hands of privateers, the 5.0 actually had something Ford never seemed to give it: power, and lots of it. Fitted with aluminum heads, the 5.0 became a lightweight and potent performer that reached legendary and perhaps even heroic status. The crew here at Wheelbase Media tested a variant of the 5.0 at 482 horsepower and 440 pound-feet of torque (vimeo.com/wheelbase).

Meanwhile, by Ford's own admission, the Mustang's 4.6-litre V8, at 315 horsepower, was outmatched ("By 2007, the Mustang competitive landscape was beginning to change . . .") at least on paper, and in need of a serious upgrade.

Capitalizing on the original 5.0's post-Ford success and popularity was likely a smart move in launching the new 5.0, especially considering the grand plan.

Enter the 18 members of Ford's 5.0-litre team with a goal of creating more than 400 horsepower. This might seem like a lofty goal considering the 4.6 was 85 horsepower shy of 400 and that the bigger 5.7-litre Chrysler Hemi V8 was in the 370 range and the bigger-still 6.2-litre Camaro V8 was at 426 horsepower. But, what most people didn't know was that Ford had been offering a 420-horsepower 5.0-litre double-overhead Cammer engine through its parts department since 2003.

Listing for about $15,000 US, the Cammer was ready-made proof the power could be made with 5.0 litres of displacement — in this case, a 4.6-litre engine block with a larger bore — but push the clock ahead seven years and fuel economy and durability were major considerations, especially for a high-volume car such as the Mustang.

Team member Todd Brewer, who owns a 1987 5.0-litre Mustang GT, was in charge of double-overhead-cam cylinder-head development of the new 5.0.

"Striking the optimal balance between all of these attributes required us to do all the things we know how to do, only better," he said.

Variable cam timing makes the engine more docile and thrifty when your foot isn't jammed to the floorboard, such as when cruising the freeway or idling at a red light.

Fuel economy, despite the hefty power and torque increase, is at least as good as the previous 4.6. Engine efficiency is one chapter of that story. The Mustang GT with the new 5.0 for 2011 (rated at 412 horsepower for the inaugural year) was claimed to pull down 25 m.p.g. on the highway.

The 5.0 is all aluminum, too, which means it's just 430 pounds, which is 20 per cent lighter than the physically much smaller all-iron 5.0 of old, according to Ford.

How important is diet? Carroll Shelby said at the time, "It might not be as sexy as adding more horsepower or bigger brakes, but shaving pounds off a car is the single smartest move you can make."

Smart? It's enough to make you wonder if the 18 members of the 5.0 team weren't designing the new engine to power their own cars. Then again, maybe they were.

Engine evolution

1 The Cammer

The idea of a 5.0-litre engine with dual overhead camshafts is hardly foreign to Ford since it offered this 420-horsepower 5.0 Cammer in its parts catalogue and showed it between the fenders of a 1965 Mustang back in 2003. The current 5.0 shares little with this engine, however. PHOTO CREDIT: FORD ARCHIVES

2 From the 289

The original 5.0-litre engine was a descendent of the 302-cubic-inch engine from the 1960s. The 302 evolved from the 289 (4.7-litre) engine, pictured here.
PHOTO CREDIT: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

3 '80s and '90s

The 5.0-litre engine of the 1980s and '90s wasn't exactly a heavy hitter, but it gained fame in the hands of privateers who successfully raced with it. Here, this 331-cubic-inch engine is derived from a 1994 5.0 and produces 482 horsepower and 440 pound-feet of torque. This is actually a street engine, not a race engine. PHOTO CREDIT: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

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BCHONDA.COM

HONDA

Parts Department

Whether it's a birthday gift for a friend or loved one or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

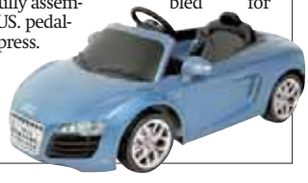
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Gearhead candy

This unique collection of Edible Chocolate Candy Gears from Andie's Specialty Sweets would make the ideal gift for someone who tinkers with the inner workings of vehicles. The basic package includes 50 assorted gears that vary in size. The company states that its gears are made using fair-trade organic ingredients. Andie's confections are also completely devoid of cornstarch, hydrogenated oil, or artificial flavours or colours. They almost sound like health-food items don't they? Each "gear set" sells for US $42.50 and can be ordered from etsy.com/listing/109115973/.

R8 V10, five and under

If it's a ride-on-type car for small fry up to five years of age you're looking for, the playful gang at Pedal Car Express sells more self- and battery propelled varieties than you could ever imagine. One of the neatest is this Italian-made Audi R8 Spyder that's produced under licence and with participation from the automaker itself. The roadster features realistic plastic wheels, outside mirrors and sports steering wheel with all the correct Audi badges and stickers. It also comes with a 12-volt rechargeable battery that propels the R8 to an eight-km-h top speed for up to 1.5 hours. A forward, reverse and neutral shifter is also part of the package. The R8 sells fully assembled for $509 US. pedalcarexpress.com.



Instant wipe-up

It's quite common for your car's windshield, side, or rear glass to require a quick cleanup from fingerprints, bugs, bird droppings and assorted environmental dirt and grime. That's where ArmorAll Glass Wipes can come in handy. The manufacturer states that these ammonia-free wipes will remove tough messes without streaking and will remain damp for up to a year (not recommended for use on glass that has added plastic-tinted film). To use, simply wipe over the glass surface and let dry. A 25-pack of Glass Wipes sells for about $10 us and is available through most department or auto-parts stores. For complete product info, go to armorall.com.

Shelby on a roll

You might not be able to afford a Shelby Mustang GT500, but you could still take a Shelby on a trip. This solid-frame carry-on bag is made of ballistic-grade nylon with attached telescoping handle and rolls on sporty cast-alloy-style wheels. Auto racing legend Carroll Shelby's signature is embroidered on the bag and a cast-metal GT500 logo is in plain view. The bag sells for $80 US, or you can order a three-piece set of Shelby luggage that includes a duffel and smaller tote for $209 US. world classmotoring.com.

VIEW THE EVER-EVOLVING AUTO GIFT GUIDE AT WHEELBASE.WS/MEDIA (CLICK THE "COOL AUTO GIFT IDEAS" CATEGORY AT THE RIGHT).

Just kick it: Ford opens the liftgate

Driving Force. Company finds solution to a common errand running problem

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

If you've ever had to put down an armload of groceries so you could open your vehicle's liftgate, you probably think there must be a better way.

Ford agreed, and its new Escape and C-Max Hybrid models can be equipped with a hands-free electric liftgate that opens when you have the key fob in your pocket, and you kick your foot under the rear bumper.

"There are two sensors, one underneath where the fascia wraps around, and one at the rear," says Kaci Hrynewich, program management at Ford Motor Company.

"These create a field that is disturbed when a foot (is placed) in it, and both of those sensors have to have that detection in order for them to 'talk' to the module to open the liftgate."

The theory behind the liftgate is relatively simple — it uses motion technology similar to that in some video games — but actually putting it into a production model was more of a challenge.

"We have multiple components all coming together, so we had to figure out how far away you have to be," Hrynewich says. "We had to try it with the metallic paint on our colour palette to make sure the sensor field wouldn't be affected by it.

"We also had a tight packaging space, which was a concern because we couldn't put (the module) too close to a bumper beam, because it's conductive and it wouldn't work. It's easy to look at the guidelines for the system, but then you have to put them into the vehicle you're trying to engineer, and we had to package that and make sure it still functioned properly."

Each of the two sensors has a specific function. One senses that your leg is there, while the other detects the motion, and both have to be triggered by the kicking motion in order for the liftgate to open or close.

Liftgate facts

- The earliest power "liftgates" were on station wagons. In 1971, full-size GM wagons had two-piece power tailgates, where the window slid up into the roof, and the bottom gate slipped down under the floor.
- Ford's hands-free liftgate underwent hundreds of tests, including extreme heat and cold, snow and rain, and being hit with shopping carts and toys to ensure it would only open under the right conditions.

SiriusXM

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Jeep.ca/Offers

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CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

Less Fuel. More Power. Great Value is a comparison between the 2013 and the 2012 Chrysler Canada product lineups. 40 MPG or greater claim based on 2012 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. See dealer for additional EnerGuide details. Wise customers read the fine print: • *, ≤, § The All the Best in 2013 Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after February 1, 2013. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealers for complete details and conditions. • $35,498 Purchase Price applies to 2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (26E) only. Pricing includes freight ($1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. See participating dealers for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select new 2013 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. ≤4.99% lease financing available through WS Leasing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Credit Union) ("WS") to qualified retail customers on new 2012/2013 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram and FIAT models at participating dealers in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories. Lease offer is based on a 2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo with a Purchase Price of $32,998 including $2,500 Consumer Cash and $2,500 Lease Delivery Credit. Purchase Price includes freight ($1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, dealer charges and taxes. Lease offer is based on a 60 month term at 4.99% APR and 130 bi-weekly payments of $192. Down payment of $0 and applicable taxes, $475 WS registration fee and first bi-weekly payment are due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $24,928. Taxes, licence, registration, insurance, dealer charges and excess wear and tear not included. 22,000 kilometer allowance: charge of $.18 per excess kilometer. Some conditions apply. Security deposit may be required. See your dealer for complete details. §2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $52,040. Pricing includes freight ($1,595) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. ◊Based on automotive awards for SUVs 1974 to 2011. ♠Based on *Ward's* 2012 Middle Sport/Utility Vehicle Segmentation. ¤Based on 2012 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel economy will vary based on driving habits and other factors. 2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee – Hwy 8.8 L/100 km (32 MPG) and City: 13.0 L/100 km (22 MPG). ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ® Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

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FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS

GM has announced it will be "embedding" all of its 2015 models with 4G LTE high-speed broadband. HANDOUT

All GM vehicles to get Internet come 2015

Auto Pilot. A future where all cars are connected sounds great, but will we ever leave our vehicles?

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Get ready for a future where virtually all vehicles are Internet hot spots.

At a mobility conference in Spain this week, GM announced it will equip virtually all its 2015 models in the United States and Canada with 4G LTE high-speed broadband. Some of those 2015 models should be on sale by mid 2014.

There is a sprinkling of models from other manufacturers, like Mercedes-Benz, and Chrysler, that have 3G-based hot spots. BMW introduced 4G LTE wi-fi to its 7 Series this past year. And of course you can get onto the Internet on many vehicles by syncing your smartphone into their infotainment systems.

But while we have been definitely moving toward this wi-fi future, the GM announcement is a declaration of sorts that Internet hot spots in the majority of vehicles is a fait accompli.

GM said "embedding" or "hard wiring" vehicles with LTE high-speed broadband is a faster and more reliable connection for infotainment offerings.

Otherwise, GM has to rely on whatever good or wonky smartphone technology and coverage that is in the hands of its customers.

Also, with this system, customers don't have to have a smartphone to use the vehicle's connected services, because, well, their vehicle is a smartphone.

And finally, having a vehicle with the capacity to be connected to the World Wide Web in such a profound way sets up all sorts of fantastic connected scenarios.

GM could update a lot of software wirelessly, and keep their vehicles up-to-date on a whole bunch of parameters, not just infotainment ones.

So yeah, all great. Video streaming movies. People on Facebook or Skype with their iPads. Real time traffic updates.

Pulling information from the cloud.

Yada Yada Yada.

Extra charges?

The downside

Well, the general nature of face-to-face human contact, nurtured and evolved through millennia, now reversing and degrading to a world where humans only feel comfortable looking at a screen of some sort, might be one.

But say we don't worry about that one, what about your monthly car payments? I'm guessing there will be an extra charge for data services. Not sure, but my current Internet and cellphone provider seems to operate on such a revenue model.

Another thing: my car already has a better sound system than any in our house. In the future it might also have the best wi-fi.

You can already feed yourself via the drive-thrus. You'll never wanna get out of the car. The need for washroom facilities is still there, but maybe they're working on that too.

Imagine a world where ...

So yeah, all great. Video streaming movies. People on Facebook or Skype with their iPads. Real time traffic updates. Pulling information from the cloud. Yada Yada Yada.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This would be a good day to clarify your ambitions and to let those in positions of power and authority know that unless they offer you something better you will be looking elsewhere. Say it and mean it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
It's time to get tough with someone who has been taking liberties. Yes, of course, you could blame yourself for allowing the situation to drag on so long but ultimately it's their fault, not yours, so speak up.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may need to backtrack a little today if you don't want to fall out with a friend or work colleague. OK, so you believe that what you said was true but did you have to be so sarcastic about it?

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Be honest with loved ones today, even if what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear. If they mean something to you then you must make sure they see the light — for their own good.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A new health or fitness program could be just what you need to get yourself moving again, physically and mentally. And stick with it this time. It won't be long before you see some seriously encouraging results.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be surprised by what happens today but don't just stand there or you could miss out on an opportunity to benefit from unexpected changes. And don't feel guilty if you gain from someone else's misfortune.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may find it hard to turn down a call for assistance but it's necessary. If you don't, you will find yourself doing things for others that they really should be doing for themselves. Don't let them take advantage.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The planets will give you the courage you require to start something you have been yearning to do for ages. Great changes are taking place all around you but don't be afraid: They are the kind of changes you need.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't stop thinking and don't stop looking for ways to improve your position in life. Over the next few days there will be more than one opportunity to make money from sudden events. If you don't then someone else will.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
An idea that pops into your head out of nowhere may be outrageous, but the more you allow yourself to think about it the more you will like it. Some say you are too cautious to take risks. Prove them wrong.

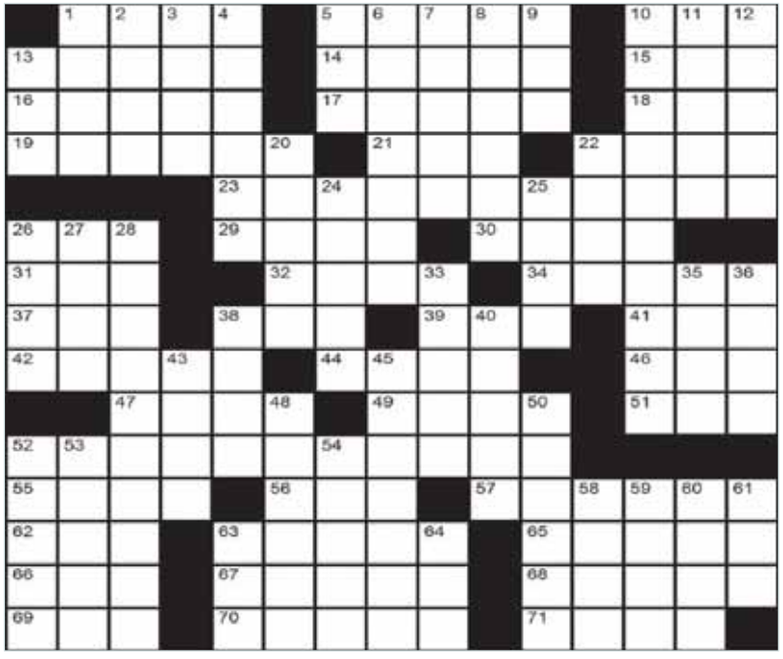
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There are so many changes going on that even the most adventurous of Aquarians may be wondering where it is all going to end. But change never ends — you know that. Make change your friend.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you approach a difficult problem from an unusual angle today you may be surprised how simple the answer is. If you are still stuck though you should ask someone you trust.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

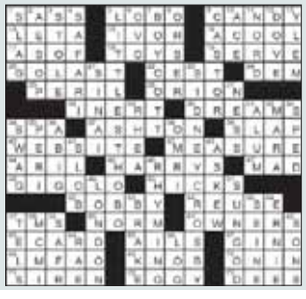
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Bell's loud ring
5. Fab Four's famous Road
10. Roll of grass
13. Ancient Greek colony
14. Irish writer, James __
15. 'Fort' finisher (Luck)
16. Montreal's __ Royal
17. Illegally sell tickets
18. Point
19. Gauge
21. Bambi's aunt
22. Train sound, when repeated
23. "Try Honesty" band: 2 wds.
26. Ms. Simpson, for short
29. Holler!
30. Curved music symbol
31. Aunt's li'l husband
32. Horse's pace
34. Recounts
37. Ski-__
38. Jewel
39. Filmmaker, John __
41. Archery skill
42. Computer chip company
44. Aid and __
46. Modern
47. Really mad
49. Pro __ (In proportion)
51. Made a hole in the ground
52. Canadian fashion journalist born in Toronto: 2 wds.
55. City, in Latin
56. 'M' of PM, for short
57. The __ Family (Celtic music group)
62. Writer Mr. Levin
63. Blue Rodeo singer Jim
65. Dutch cheese
66. Defraud
67. Nymph of Greek mythology
68. Ms. Winfrey
69. Antlered animal
70. Actor Sean's surnamesakes
71. Profits

Down
1. Jeers
2. Burden
3. Kate Hudson movie musical
4. F. Scott Fitzgerald novel, The Great __
5. Mr. McLean's of the Backstreet Boys
6. "The Prayer" duo: Celine Dion & Andrea __
7. "Not __ __ stretch of the imagination."
8. Acclamations
9. "Uh-huh."
10. Donald or Kiefer
11. Tears-inducer
12. The Home __
13. The Monkees hit: "__ _ Believer"
20. Warfare attack
22. Hint
24. Animal of The Andes
25. __ sax
26. Dame __ Dench
27. 'Phenom' ending
28. Financial institution founded in Halifax in 1832
33. Fine-tune
35. Stead
36. City haze
38. Type of valley
40. Sea __ (Cute mammal)
43. Sea eagles [var. sp.]
45. Actor Mr. Fraser
48. Bashful
50. Catherine of __ (King Henry VIII's first wife)
52. Orange __
53. Film legend Mr. Flynn
54. Vice President Joe __
58. Negative reply
59. Mr. Russell
60. Filmmaker Ms. Lupino, and others
61. "Uh-uh."
63. Crime fighter
64. Li'l length units

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

4	7						5	1
		2	3			6		
1			5		6			
9				3		2	6	
				2				
	1	3		8				9
			2		9			7
		4			8	5		
7	5						2	8

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	4	8	7	1	6	3	9
6	8	1	3	9	5	4	2	7
3	9	7	4	6	2	8	1	5
5	2	6	9	1	7	3	8	4
8	1	3	5	4	6	7	9	2
7	4	9	2	3	8	5	6	1
4	6	8	1	5	9	2	7	3
9	3	2	7	8	4	1	5	6
1	7	5	6	2	3	9	4	8

Today 8°/4° Showers
Thursday 8°/7° Rain 80%
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2013 SONATA

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HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.™

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Sonata GL Auto with an annual finance rate of 0% for 72 months. Bi-weekly payments are $163. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for $25,564 at 0% per annum equals $163 bi-weekly for 72 months for a total obligation of $25,564. Cash price is $25,564. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ♦Price of models shown 2013 Sonata Limited is $30,564. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,565 are included. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. †*♦Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ††7 year/120,000 km warranty consists of 5 year/100,000km Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage and an additional 2 year/20,000km coverage under the Hyundai Protection Plan. Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. Coverage under the Hyundai Protection Plan is subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your local dealer for all details. 7 Year/120,000 km warranty available on all 2013 Sonata models except Hybrid. *Customers who finance the purchase of a new 2013 Sonata model through RBC or Scotiabank's promotional or Smart rate loan programs (Scotia Dealer Advantage non-prime excluded) are eligible to return the vehicle to the selling dealer between 7-30 days of delivery to obtain a full refund. To be eligible, purchasers must show a valid sale or conditional sale agreement for the purchase of another new automobile, vehicle odometer must not exceed 2,000 km on the date of return, and any vehicle damage must not exceed $400.00 (purchaser responsible for damage). Any trade-in vehicle will not be returned to purchaser. Cash deals are excluded. Other conditions and restrictions apply. Please see your dealer for details.

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